Calendar of Events

SPRING 2015

FREE!

FOUR RIVERS
ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

Discover nature’s treasures in "your own backyard!"
Welcome to the Four Rivers!

The watersheds of the Rock, Sugar, Pecatonica and Kishwaukee Rivers in northwest Illinois contain a wealth of natural beauty and resources. The Four Rivers Environmental Coalition created this guide to environmental events and organizations to help residents and visitors discover the rivers, prairies, woodlands, wild flowers and wildlife that are “in our own backyard.” Dozens of environmental organizations in our area provide marvelous opportunities for students, families and individuals of all ages to explore our natural heritage. Perhaps you’re looking for educational programs that meet school curriculum for field trips, home school or scout troops. Or, maybe you’d enjoy the adventure and fun of a fossil hike, wildflower walk or bird banding tour. Let this seasonal brochure be your guide to discover and appreciate the environmental treasures of the four rivers area of northern Illinois. For more information contact the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District at 815-877-6100 or jjohannsen@wcfpd.org. or visit www.fourriver.org

Cover photo by Tracey Kamman
The Four Rivers Environmental Coalition Welcomes Your Donations to Enable us to Educate and Advocate for the Preservation of the Natural Resources and Environmental Assets of the Four Rivers Region

The Four Rivers Environmental Coalition is an alliance of public and private organizations. Its purpose is to advocate, educate and plan for the protection of the natural resources and biodiversity in the watersheds of the four rivers region of northern Illinois. The Rock, Kishwaukee, Sugar and Pecatonica are each unique and beautiful rivers rich with historical, recreational and biological value. The goal of the FREC is to provide a platform for partnership and leadership in the protection of these natural assets that are critical to this area’s economy and health. For more information or to make a tax-exempt donation, contact the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, 815/877-6100.

The Four Rivers Environmental Coalition has established a tax-exempt charitable fund with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. To make a donation please contact the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois at 815/962-2110. Checks may be written payable to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois with Four Rivers Environmental Coalition noted in the memo line, and sent to 946 North Second Street, Rockford, IL 61107. Please call the Foundation if interested in making a credit card contribution to the Coalition fund.

Four Rivers Environmental Coalition Projects and Initiatives

- A River Gathering
  Celebrating the beauty, ecology and recreation of our rivers
  June 20-22, 2013

- Green Drinks Rockford
  Ongoing series of networking social focused on environmental topics
  see Green Drinks Rockford on Facebook

- Co-sponsor BioBlitz at Angelic Organics Learning Center
  September 15, 2012

- Co-sponsor of Earth Matters Community Earth Day Celebration
  April 21, 2012

  October 20, 2011

- A River Gathering
  Celebrating the beauty, ecology and recreation of our rivers
  June 2011

- Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet In Peril Community Book Discussion
  October 30, 2010

- Into the Wild natural areas series in The Rock River Times
  2010

- Co-Sponsor of 2009 Winnebago County Green Business Awards
  May 2009

- Celebrate Earth Regional Earth Day Events Campaign
  April - May 2009

- Leave No Child Inside series in The Rock River Times 2008-2010

- BioBlitz, Day of Discovery, Byron Forest Preserve
  May 17 2008

- Annual Earth Day Environmental Celebration
  April 26, 2008

- Green Harvest Partnership with Cliffbreakers Restaurant to support local environmental organizations
  August - September 2007

- Operation Migration Whooping Crane Conservation Public Presentation
  October 10, 2006 at Burpee Museum

- Publication of Educator’s Guide to FREC Environmental Education Programs
  March 2005

- Four Rivers For Life poster project
  April through December 2005
This is the Last Edition!

Calendar of Events Booklet to be Discontinued!

After nine years of providing this FREC quarterly events publication free to guide residents and visitors in the discovery of rivers, prairies, woodlands, wildflowers and wildlife, we are sad to announce that this is the final edition. Due to budgetary reductions among member organizations, this publication will no longer be available.

We thank you for your involvement and support for the health, beauty, and sustainability of the four rivers region and the many organizations that work hard to protect, manage and educate about it so it will remain a viable home for all.

The Four Rivers Environmental Coalition will carry on its commitment to lifting up the local environmental community and making our nature centers, parks, preserves, farms, gardens and museums accessible to all segments of our community by sharing information on events, programs, tours, camps, classes and adventures!

Follow us on Facebook, visit our web site at www.fourriver.org and stay tuned for upcoming FREC projects and initiatives that will advocate, educate and plan for the protection of the natural resources and biodiversity in the watersheds of the four rivers region of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

Thank you for your support of the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition and all its member organizations!

Thank you for your support!
Events & Programs

Spring 2015 Events & Programs

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

Recycle Centers
Year-Round

- 4665 Hydraulic Road, Rockford (off South Alpine)
  2-5 p.m. Tuesdays
  9 a.m.-Noon Saturdays
- 13125 N. Second Street, Roscoe (IL 251 east access road, ½ mile north of McCurry Road)
  9 a.m.-Noon Saturdays

Drive-through free drop-off site for household recycling. Accepts flattened corrugated cardboard; paper; co-mingled #1 & #2 plastic bottles and glass containers with “neck and shoulders”, aluminum, tin or metal food cans; bagged textiles and clothing; items containing metal and most electronics. No TVs, computer CRT monitors, appliances with Freon, items that contained oil, or propane tanks. More than 15 tons of recyclables are kept out of the waste stream monthly via the Recycle Centers.

Volunteers needed for 2-hour shifts. Information: www.knib.org, Facebook, 815-637-1343 or info@knib.org.

Natural Land Institute

Stewardship Days
Ongoing

Volunteers are invited to help with a variety of stewardship tasks at NLI preserves including seed collection, planting, and invasive weeds and brush removal. Be prepared to work outside and bring your own refreshments. Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Work the entire day or part it. For more information, to confirm when you will help and for location directions call Kevin Rohling, Director of Stewardship at 815-218-0210. Holidays excluded.

Every Wednesday Crew at Nygren Wetland Preserve, 3190 W. Rockton Rd., Rockton
Every Thursday Crew at Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, southwest of Rockford (Contact crew leader Lois Winkel, winkster222@yahoo.com)
First Saturdays Stewardship Day at Burr Oak Valley Preserve in Roscoe
Second Saturdays Stewardship Day at Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, southwest of Rockford
Third Saturdays Stewardship Day at Silver Creek Preserve, southwest of Rockford

(Contact crew leader Dion Faith, docfaith68@yahoo.com, 815-520-6916)
Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

**REAP Stewardship Work Days**

Third Saturday of each month – April through October

Various Forest Preserves

**REAP** (Restoration · Education · Appreciation · Preservation) is a group of dynamic adult volunteers from all walks of life who are committed to ecological preservation. These individuals are focused on building a culture of stewards who will ensure that the ecosystems within the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County remain healthy for generations to come. Everyone is welcome to join, and experience is not required.

**REAP** hosts habitat restoration workdays, nature hikes and other enriching conservation and educational opportunities. At weekend workdays they remove invasive plants, gather and spread seeds, and more. **REAP** members are equally as passionate about gathering for refreshments and camaraderie after each day of hard, satisfying work.

Register to join us on the **Third Saturday of each month (April through September, 9 a.m until Noon)** by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator at komalley@winnebagoforest.org or call (815) 877-6100. **REAP** members must be 21 yrs. old to join.

Natural Land Institute

**Dianne Nora Nature Trail**

Ongoing

Nygren Wetland Preserve, Wildlife Overlook
West Rockton and Hansberry Roads, Rockton, Illinois, 61072

The **Dianne Nora Nature Trail** is a 2.5 mile trail around the wetland available for birding, hiking, jogging and cross-country skiing that offers many opportunities to see wildlife and experience the beauty and solitude of the Nygren Wetland Preserve. It is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Admission is free. This trail is in the **Prairie State Conservation Coalition’s** hike app trail system. The **Prairie State Hike** app is available for apple and android platforms for 99¢ and includes information about the preserve and Natural Land Institute. The trail was established in memory of Dianne Nora by a generous gift from her family. Watch for closed signs during migration season. The parking lot is closed during the winter, but access to the trail is allowed for hiking, snowshoeing and skiing. **Rockton Township** owns and manages the land where the parking lot and overlook are located at the trail head.
Boone County Conservation District

**Volunteer opportunities**

**Ongoing**

**Restoration**

The BCCD’s Natural Resources Management Department is looking for a few more hard working volunteers. The volunteer work crew meets Tuesday mornings to help with habitat restoration projects. This is a great learning experience and a chance to work with some “unforgettable” people. Call 815-547-7935 for more information.

**Heritage Gardens**

The Heritage Garden program is in need of volunteers to work in the greenhouse starting flower and vegetable seedlings, and to do garden cleanup and garden work throughout the growing season. Volunteers are also needed to participate in special garden events. No experience required. Call Pam at 815-547-7935 for more information.

Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

**Rain barrels for Sale**

**Ongoing**

Stop sending your rain away! Capture and store your rainwater with a 55-gallon plastic rain barrel to water flowers, rinse garden tools or keep compost bins moist. Barrels come in grey, blue, black or terracotta. Each barrel is fully assembled with a screen mesh lid, two overflow spigots and a bottom drain plug. These barrels were previously used to ship pickled food overseas. Single barrels are $70.00 or are $65 if purchased in multiples. Color availability is subject to change. Please call the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at 815-965-2392 ext. 3 for more information and to place an order. The SWCD Office is located at 4833 Owen Center Road in Rockford and is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

**Conservation Programs Offered to the Public**

**Ongoing**

SWCD staff provides educational natural resource programs to all schools and both youth and adult groups in Winnebago County upon request. Topics include groundwater, stormwater, water quality, forestry, soils, recycling, prairies, and the Illinois State Symbols. The SWCD requests a fee of $2.00 per participant for a single class/group and a $1.00 per participant for larger groups or multiple presentations per visit. Programs are conducted only during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Jessica Cocroft, Resource Analyst, by calling 815-965-2392 ext. 3 or email at jessica-ra-swcd@comcast.net.
Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Conservation Books Available
Ongoing

The SWCD has several field guides available for purchase that can be used to help identify the great variety of local plants and animals found in this area. These guides have detailed photos or drawings to help you with identification of several common native plants and wildlife. Students can complete school assignments with these resources which also make excellent gifts. Available books include: Trees of Illinois, Birds of Illinois, Critters of Illinois, Wildflowers of Wisconsin, Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants and Birds of Prey of the Midwest. Call the District at 815-965-2392 ext. 3 to check availability and to place an order. Orders can be shipped but postal rates will apply.

Midway Village Museum
Prairie Tours/Plantings
Ongoing

Midway Village Museum will conduct some tours of our native plantings starting ASAP in spring with woodland wild flowers and adding prairie areas as we can. We hope people will be interested in helping us to maintain and/or plant new areas, but we will be happy to have others who are just interested in viewing the plantings. We will notify those who contact Tari Rowland at Midway Village of their interest and provide contact information. E-mail is easiest (tari.rowland@midwayvillage.com). Phone (815-397-9112) or US mail ok (Midway Village Museum, 6799 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL 61107).

Atwood Center
Lodge Open Hours
Saturdays
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Although Atwood Park is open to the public every day, on Saturdays you can come in to our lobby and take a look around. There are snakes, turtles and people who can answer your questions or take your comments. Pick up a park trail map and plan your next hike. At 1:00 pm, witness the scheduled feeding of the Birds of Prey in our state-of-the-art and fully accessible exhibit, just down from the lodge. All ages welcomed!
Wild Ones Natural Landscapers

**Native Woodland Plant Sale**

February through April 25

Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter is holding its seventh annual Native Woodland Plant Sale offering 35 native species found in Winnebago and surrounding counties. These native woodland plants are charming and beautiful with delicate and interesting foliage, exotic flower forms and interesting growth habits. Some bloom in earliest spring while others finish the season with a show of color. Woodland native plants do best in part shade to full shade. Orders are due Monday, April 20 with pickup April 24 and 25 near Durand, IL. The sale brochure is available on the website [www.WildOnesRRVC.org](http://www.WildOnesRRVC.org). For information about the sale or to request an email or hard copy of the brochure please contact Sale Coordinator Barbara Flores at 815-289-8602 or barbara@wildonesrrvc.org. All inquiries are most welcome.

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers

**Native Prairie Plant Sale**

March through May 16

Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter is holding its annual Native Prairie Plant Sale offering native species found in Winnebago and surrounding counties. The species offered are easy to grow and will provide years of beauty—while helping the environment. Once established, they require only occasional maintenance—no fertilizers, no pesticides or herbicides, no watering—plus they are beautiful and support wildlife. Most prairie native plants do best in full sun to part shade. Orders are due Monday, April 27 with pickup May 15 and 16 in Rockford, IL. The sale brochure is available on the website [www.WildOnesRRVC.org](http://www.WildOnesRRVC.org). For information about the sale or to request an email or hard copy of the brochure please contact Sale Coordinators Rick and Deb Freiman at 815-871-7424 or prairie@wildonesrrvc.org. All inquiries are welcome.

Atwood Center

**Stewardship Saturdays**

2nd Saturday of the month, beginning March 14
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Seth B. Atwood Park is a diverse 334 acres complete with prairie, woodland, river and wetlands. Each of these areas needs special attention and you can help! Join Environmental Recreation and Education staff and learn a little more about one of these areas. After a brief lesson, we will put on our gloves and see how we can help maintain the second largest park in the Rockford Park District. All ages are welcome and snacks will be provided. Groups of five or more, please call 815-874-7576 and let us know you are coming. **Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.**
Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

**Spring Equinox Woodcock Watch**
March 20, 22 or 25
7:00 p.m.
Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve

Join us for a Spring Equinox Woodcock Watch. We’ll celebrate spring by trying our luck at listening and watching American Woodcocks at our chapter’s Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve at 7:00 p.m. Carpool from the Staples east lot in Freeport at 6:30 p.m. Typically we have 2 – 6 woodcocks displaying at the preserve for 2 – 3 weeks. Since our timing may be off, call the Blackmores at 815-938-3204 to confirm that the birds are back before you make the trip. The preserve is located 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Roads. The parking lot is off West Grove Road.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

**Simply Spring: The Butterfly Exhibit**
March 21 – May 10

Celebrate the arrival of spring at Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens as you experience the magical world of butterflies! Enjoy being surrounded by live butterflies in the tropical conservatory, and see the whole butterfly lifecycle in action as you view butterflies emerging from their chrysalis in the emergence area. New this year, experience the beauty of exotic tropical butterflies!

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

**Spring Waterfowl Field Trip**
Saturday, March 28
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport

Join us for the Spring Waterfowl Field Trip to Spring Lake and the Thomson Causeway. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 8:00 a.m. or meet at Spring Lake at 9:00 a.m. Duck viewing begins at 9:00 a.m. at Spring Lake, moving on to Thomson Causeway. We will find a place for lunch around noon. Those wishing to continue can end the day with a visit to Lock and Dam 13. Return time for carpoolers will be around 3:00 p.m. Participants in the past have seen Trumpeter Swans, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, and a wide variety of ducks. The Mississippi Flyway route is followed by many North American waterfowl and this is a great way to see birds at their rest stops along the quiet backwaters of the Mississippi River. Call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 to confirm your attendance.
Sand Bluff Bird Observatory

Spring Bird Banding
Saturdays, April & May, 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sundays, April & May, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Colored Sands Forest Preserve

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is one of the largest small-bird banding operations in the country that is open to the public. Spring bird banding will take place each weekend in April through the end of May. If the weather is “iffy,” call 815-629-2671 before coming – often this is when we catch the most birds! See birds up close as you observe experienced volunteers check the nets, and band and release migrating birds. Open to the public, free/donations appreciated to help purchase nets and equipment to operate the banding station. Later in April, watch the birds, then take a hike and look for spring wildflowers in the woods at Colored Sands Forest Preserve! If you’re interested in volunteering at Sand Bluff, please contact Lynda at 815-629-2781. Individual and group visits to Sand Bluff are welcome. For more information, or to schedule a group visit, call 815-621-0607, or e-mail Sand Bluff at info@sandbluff.org. For other information check Sand Bluff’s website at www.sandbluff.org. For a map, go to the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County website at www.winnebagoforest.org. Also, save the date! Sand Bluff’s 17th annual Bird Fest will take place Mother’s Day weekend, May 9 and 10, 2015.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

Botany Lab: Butterflies Up Close
Wednesday, April 1
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Have you seen butterfly feet, wings and eyes up close? Here’s your chance! Take a close up look at the amazingly adapted parts of a butterfly and make a butterfly model to take home! (Includes admission for one parent/guardian, must be present at all times) Ages 5+, $8 residents of Winnebago County, $10 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

Animal Hour: Animals after Dark
April 2, 2015
11am-12pm

Discover the wonderful world of animals in this hands-on, interactive workshop. Learn about Burpee Museum’s Living Collection and get up close to the animals! Great for families! Cost: Only $2 with general admission. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.
Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

**Earth Day Awards Luncheon**
Thursday, April 2
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Giovanni’s Restaurant and Convention Center, 610 N. Bell School Road, Rockford

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful celebrates the 45th anniversary of Earth Day at a luncheon with a nationally-known nature author scheduled to speak. Awards will be presented recognizing local individual and corporate or agency efforts to sustain the environment. Individual tickets $75 if purchased after March 25, $65 if purchased before.

Sponsorship opportunities and details: www.knib.org, Facebook, info@knib.org, or 815-637-1343.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

**Botany Lab: Backyard Butterfly Garden**
Friday, April 3
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bring summer butterflies to your backyard! NCG education staff will show you how you can make your yard and community butterfly-friendly. Plant butterfly’s favorite plants to take home! (includes admission for one parent/guardian, must be present at all times) Ages 5+, $8 residents of Winnebago County, $10 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Baby Plants and Animals**
Friday, April 3
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Come to Angelic Organics Learning Center for an adorable celebration of spring. Observe the mother and baby animals together, hold a newborn goat kid, and learn about the changes on the farm in springtime. See plants growing in the greenhouse and fields, and plant your own seeds, just like the farmers do! Register for parents and kids ages 3 and up. $14 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Severson Dells Nature Center

**Dragonflies & Damselflies of Northern Illinois: A Photographic Journey through the Life History of Odonates**
Friday, April 3
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The order Odonata dates back over 300 million years to a time when dragonflies with two and a half foot wingspans ruled the air.
Today these successful aquatic insects represent a diverse group of animals with a complex life cycle. The 100 plus species known for Northern Illinois act as good wetland indicators and are just plain fascinating to observe. Marla Garrison, Biology Faculty at McHenry County College and author of Damselflies of Chicagoland: A Photo Field Guide, offers an image intensive, up close and personal, presentation of this intriguing, and visually splendid, group of insects. Through macro photography, come explore the Lilliputian world of local odonate fauna including their basic anatomy, life history, behaviors and diversity. Call for more information 815-335-2915.

Byron Forest Preserve District

Partial Lunar Eclipse
Saturday, April 4
3:30 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.
Meet at the Weiskopf Observatory

View a partial lunar eclipse through one of our three observatory telescopes. Register for this free program by Thursday, April 2 by calling 815-234-8535.

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

Guided Bird Hike- Ducks!
Saturday, April 4
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Ferguson Forest Preserve

Join local birding expert, Dan Williams, in this unique opportunity to observe a variety of migrating waterfowl at this prime wetland conservation site. Dan says, depending on water levels, we will see a great variety of ducks including Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaups and more! No fee. Registration required. Limit 15 people. Call 815/877-6100 to register. Meet at the Winslow Road parking lot just east of Shirland.

Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc.

Scrap Metal Drive
Saturday, April 4 at Beckman Mill County Park parking lot
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Bring all the old metal items you find while spring cleaning. Volunteers will unload your car, truck or trailer and recycle your metal. Accepted items include wire, fencing, grills, bicycles, barrels, appliances and more. Sorry, we are not able to accept electronic items or items with Freon. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for more information.
Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Eggcellent Adventures at the Farm**  
Saturday, April 4  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In this program all about eggs, come meet the chickens and ducks, find out how baby birds develop, and collect colorful eggs from our rare-breed chickens. Using natural dyes, each family will color eggs to bring home. Dress to be outside on the farm! Please register for each family member age 3 and up. $14 Please pre-register at [www.learngrow-connect.org](http://www.learngrow-connect.org).

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Eggstravaganza**  
April 4, 2015  
10am- 3pm

Burpee Museum of Natural History joins Discovery Center for this annual egg-stravaganza! Hop into you favorite museum and fill your basket with yummy treats! Kids 9 and under can look for eggs at 11am and 1pm. The rest of the time, children of all ages can jump into egg-cellent fun. Cost: Members of either museum: children $2/ adults no charge. Public: children: $11/ Adults $8. Admission included. Call 815.965.3433 for more information.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

**Breakfast with the Butterflies**  
Saturday, April 4, 11, 18, 25  
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Join us for a fun family-friendly breakfast. There will be yummy food, fun butterfly activities and crafts. You will also be able to walk through the exhibit and experience the magic of live butterflies! $9 residents of Winnebago County, $11 non-residents. Children ages 4 & under are $4 residents, $5 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit [www.nicholasconservatory.com](http://www.nicholasconservatory.com) to register. Register early – this program fills fast!

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

**Blooming Pasque Flowers Trip**  
Tuesday, April 7  
3:00 p.m.

Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve  
Join us for a Blooming Pasque Flowers trip to the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve and admire one of the prairie’s harbingers of spring. Unlike the crocus it resembles, a Pasque Flower, Anemone patens, is a member of the buttercup family. In early spring the plants send up a
flower stalk in advance of the leaves so what you see are delicate pale violet blooms nestled in the muted tan tangle of last year’s prairie grass. Come and see how Pasque Flower blooms actually move to track the sun. We’ll meet in the prairie’s parking lot just off of Walnut Road at 3:00 p.m. After our prairie stroll, we’ll go for pizza. Call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 for details.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Preschoolers: Great Goats!**

Friday, April 10
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Come to Angelic Organics Learning Center for our farming series especially for preschoolers and their caregivers. During this session we’ll celebrate great goats, especially our newborn kids and their mamas. Through stories, songs, and hands-on work, we’ll help take care of the baby goats and learn about their role on the farm. Dress to be outside. Registration is per child ages 2-5. $12 Please pre-register at [www.learngrowconnect.org](http://www.learngrowconnect.org).

Boone County Conservation District

**Long Prairie Trail Clean Up**

Saturday, April 11
8:30 a.m.

Join our “Friends of the Long Prairie Trail” group at the LPT parking lot in Poplar Grove for juice and donuts before tackling the trail clean up. Bring work gloves if you have them. If you have any questions, please call 815-547-7935.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Burpee Explorers: Breathing the Air of Giants**

April 11, 2015
1-2:30pm
Ages 6 and up

How do lungs work? What are the lungs of reptiles like? How do they compare to the lungs of dinosaurs? Meet Burpee’s live resident reptiles and examine real lungs! Cost: $20 per child. Child must be accompanied by an adult. One adult required for up to two children. For more information contact Betsy Carlson at 815.965.3433 x1029.
Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens  
**Botany Lab: Butterflies Up Close**  
Saturday, April 11  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Have you seen butterfly feet, wings and eyes up close? Here’s your chance! Take a close up look at the amazingly adapted parts of a butterfly and make a butterfly model to take home! (Includes admission for one parent/guardian, must be present at all times) Ages 5+, $8 residents of Winnebago County, $10 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Macktown Living History  
Macktown Forest Preserve, Rockton  
**Historic Character Development Workshops**  
Saturday, April 11  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Workshops designed to offer specific genre information on this area’s early frontier and settlement era. Topics include: clothing choices, typical foods and cooking styles, tools, daily tasks, language and weaponry, if applicable. All ages welcome, but recommend middle to upper elementary age children and adults. Participants are welcome to participate as re-enactors at The Gathering event weekend at the end of April. Free. For more information, call 815-624-4200, email macktown1@frontier.com or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/macktownlivinghistory.

Byron Forest Preserve District  
**Brownie Badge—Creative Play**  
Saturday, April 11  
12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center  
Invent your own game and make it! We’ll have all the starting materials—game pieces, play money, dice, and blank boards…you’ll work together with a friend to make up your rules and how to play. We’ll also play some running, tag, and hiding games, go on a scavenger hunt, and finish with a surprise mystery event. For Brownie Girl Scouts. Cost is $5.00 per person (includes badge). Please register by Thursday, April 9 by calling 815-234-8535.
Welty Environmental Center

Weaving a Web - Dreamcatchers
Saturday, April 11
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dreamcatchers have been used by several native cultures in the area. We will learn the lore behind the dreamcatcher, then make one to take home. All materials will be provided, but if you want something special in yours please feel free to bring it along. This project requires intermediate skills. Cost for the workshop is $7 per project. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration.

Register by April 8.

Byron Forest Preserve District

Beekeeping Workshop
Sunday, April 12
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Learn beekeeping techniques and tools of the trade. This workshop will cover feeding bees and preparing for splitting over-wintering colonies. Cost is $2 per person. No advance registration is required for this workshop. For more information call 815-234-8535.

Byron Forest Preserve District

Cadettes Girl Scouts – Trees Badge
Sunday, April 12
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Tree fun, science, crafts, connections, and helping trees thrive; you’ll have your choices of activities to complete the steps for this badge. Dress for the weather and bring your sense of fun and adventure! For Cadette Girl Scouts. Cost is $5.00 per person (includes patch). Please register by Thursday, April 9. Call 815-234-8535 for more information.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

Adult Learning Program: Talking Dinos
April 14, 2015
10:30-11:30am

Pachycephalosaurus, Triceratops, Apatosaurus- have you ever wondered where those crazy, unpronounceable names originated? Here is your chance to get up to speed with the most recent information on dinosaurs and share in this exciting topic! Pre-registration required. Cost: $10 members/ $12 nonmembers. For more information contact Betsy Carlson at 815.965.3433 x1029.
Atwood Center

**Adult Hiking Club**
2nd Tuesday of the month, beginning April 14
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Come take a walk and explore nature with Environmental Recreation and Education staff from Atwood Center in one of the area’s beautiful parks or forest preserves. Each 60 minute hike will begin promptly at 9:00 am. The April 14th hike will be at Atwood Park and the May 12th site is Sinnissippi Park. Questions? Call the Atwood Center office at 815-874-7576. No registration is needed for this drop-in program.

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

**Annual Spring Banquet**
Tuesday, April 14
Highland Community College

Join us for our annual spring banquet at Highland Community College in Freeport. Tom Clay, Director of the Illinois Audubon Society, will tell the story of restoring the Greater Prairie Chicken in Illinois through a series of pictures. Banquet includes a turkey dinner. Contact Tim Smith at 815-835-5109 to preregister for the banquet. Registration forms can also be found at www.nwilaudubon.org.

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

**Botanica: a gardener’s luncheon**
Giovanni’s Restaurant & Conference Center
610 N. Bell School Road
Rockford, IL 61107
Wednesday, April 15
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.: Design Workshop | Topic TBD
11:00 a.m.: Social Hour & Silent Auction
12:00 p.m.: Luncheon
12:30 p.m.: Live Auction
12:45 p.m.: Melinda Myers Presentation – Garden Renewal
Book signing to follow
Tickets will be available for purchase in March 2015. Contact Sarah Lambert at 815-965-8146 or slambert@klehm.org with questions.

Help us welcome spring at Botanica 2015! This year’s luncheon will feature speaker Melinda Myers, a nationally renowned gardening expert and author specializing in Midwestern gardening. Among many other projects, she’s a columnist for the magazines *Birds & Blooms* and *Gardening How-To*, produces nationally syndicated radio and TV segments “Melinda’s Garden Moment,” and has published 20 books, including 2014’s *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook*. **Garden Renewal**_ Transforming an empty lot into a beautiful landscape or an overgrown struggling garden into a colorful centerpiece can be easier and more affordable than you think._
**Wild Ones- Rock River Valley Chapter**  
**Program: Starting From Scratch-Planning Your Native Landscape**  
Thursday, April 16  
Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Rebecca Olson of Olson Ecological Solutions will present a step-by step audio-visual guide to converting your yard or garden to an oasis of native plants and grasses that provides beauty and supports wildlife. She will explain several factors to consider when assessing your property’s potential to support prairie, woodland and wetland plants. Perhaps your soils, moisture conditions and light availability would support a combination of habitat types. Learn about what plants to select and where to buy them. This program is your opportunity to get started on the native landscape you have been dreaming of. This program is free and open to the public.  
Call 815-494-6977 for more information.

**Welty Environmental Center**  
**Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Course**  
Thursdays, April 16 - June 18  
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
This class is presented and taught by both the Welty Environmental Center and Beloit College. Classes will take place every Thursday evening from 6-8:30 p.m., with two mandatory all-day field trips on Saturdays May 23 and June 13. Unless otherwise noted all classes will take place at the Welty Environmental Center and will involve as much outdoor time as possible.  
The $250 course involves 40 hours of training in natural history, interpretation and conservation stewardship. Scholarships are available. All materials and instruction are provided in the registration fee. Once trained, a Wisconsin Master Naturalist provides volunteer service in one of three areas: education/interpretation, stewardship, or citizen science. To maintain certification, volunteers must complete 40 hours of service each year, in addition to eight hours of advanced training.  
For more information about the WIMN program, please visit [www.wimasternaturalist.org](http://www.wimasternaturalist.org). Go to [www.wimasternaturalist.org/event/volcoursecalendar](http://www.wimasternaturalist.org/event/volcoursecalendar) to register for this course.  
**Register by March 31.** Get more information at 608-361-1377 or info@weltycenter.org.
Rock Valley College
**Earth Day Celebration**
Saturday, April 18
RVC Campus, 3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford
Watch for more information on the RVC website: http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
**Midwest Crane Count**
Saturday, April 18
5:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
Join us on our annual Midwest crane count! To sign up to count cranes in Stephenson County contact count coordinator Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 if you would like to participate. No experience necessary!

Angelic Organics Learning Center
**Get Your Goat**
Saturday, April 18
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Thinking about starting your own small herd of goats? Come learn the basics of different breeds, housing, feed requirements, breeding, pregnancy and birth at this hands-on workshop. In this class, we’ll learn how to trim hooves, what to look for when purchasing your first goat, and the basics of milking and processing milk. $50 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Severson Dells Nature Center
**Kishwaukee Gorge Forest Preserve**
Saturday, April 18
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Join Biologist/Educator Greg Keilback for an exploration as winter changes to spring. The hikes will be moderate and “off trail”. I don’t know what we will find or adventures we will encounter, but I can say it will be fun to be outside! Bring energy food and drinking water and positive feelings. Contact Severson Dells to register at 815-335-2915.

Welty Environmental Center
**Super Saturday Day Camp - Happy Earth Day!**
Saturday, April 18
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Summer may not be here yet, but you can still come to camp! Earth Day may be every day, but April is a special time to celebrate. We will explore the beauty and wonder of Mother Nature, and check out ways we can help the Earth every day. Be dressed to explore
outdoors! Participants need to bring a lunch, but afternoon snack and drinks will be provided. Camp is open to children ages 6-12 years. Cost is $15 per Welty member, $20 per nonmember. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. Register by April 16. Limited to 15 participants.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

*Farm Dreams: Assessing Risks & Resources to Start a Small Farm or Market Garden*

Saturday, April 18
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Have you ever dreamed of starting your own sustainable farm? In this interactive workshop, we’ll learn about sustainable farming in the region, take part in a series of self-assessments, and be better prepared to decide whether to pursue a farming business. We’ll hear about regional training opportunities through the Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT), university extension, small business development centers, and others. Includes a presentation of farming enterprises, a tour of Angelic Organics farm, and an opportunity to ask questions about the development of successful local farms. Taught by Janet Gamble of Turtle Creek Gardens. $60 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve

*Two Great Workshop Opportunities at The Grove*

Saturday, April 18
FREE!!!!!!!

www.seversondells.org for more details

Nature Explore and Severson Dells Nature Center are hosting at least one workshop for you! Both workshops will be led by qualified educators from Nature Explore in Lincoln, Nebraska (www.natureexplore.com). Each workshop will have an inside component and if weather cooperates we will spend time in The Grove, SDFP’s new playscape area. Limited to 50 people so call early.

**WORKSHOP ONE - Learning with Nature**
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Suggested audience…any adults over the age 18, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, scout leaders, etc, that may bring kids out to use the Grove or just want to hear about why nature is important to experience for all ages.

**WORKSHOP TWO - Using Your (The Grove) Outdoor Classroom**
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Suggested Audience…formal and nonformal educators or anyone who may bring children out to the Grove for an educational experience. Recommended for teachers of preschool- third grade level students. Limited to 50 people so call early.
Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Scout Program for Webelos: Naturalist**
April 18, 2015
10am-12pm
A naturalist studies living creatures and plants in the wild. Earn the Naturalist Badge using our biology exhibit, Windows to Wilderness, and the museum grounds. Dress to be outside part of the time. Badges not provided. Registration and prepayment required. Cost: $10/ scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/ each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Scout Program for Webelos: Forester**
April 18, 2015
1:30-3:30pm
Using the variety of trees on the museum grounds and the beautiful woodwork in our older building, the boys will earn their Forester Badge. Dress to be outside part of the time. Pins not provided. Registration and pre-payment are required. Cost: $10/ scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/ each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.

Atwood Center

**In the Outdoors – Light the Night**
Saturday, April 18
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Experience what Seth B. Atwood Park has to offer during a FREE monthly series of activities that highlight different aspects of the park. “Light the Night” will feature guided night hikes leaving Atwood Center every 10 minutes from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Hikes will culminate with a campfire, complete with camp songs and S’mores fun from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. All ages and singing abilities welcome! Questions? Please call our office at 815-874-7576. Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Get Started Growing Food at Home**
Sunday, April 19
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Celebrate Earth Day by learning techniques for organic soil preparation and planting. We’ll learn about soil texture and soil life, plus how our Biodynamic farm tends and feeds the earth. We’ll cover the basics of double digging, prepare a garden bed, and learn about seeding and transplanting through hands-on projects. Dress to work in the garden. Sandwiches for lunch included. $75 Please pre-register at [www.learn-growconnect.org](http://www.learn-growconnect.org).
Burpee Museum of Natural History

*AIA Free Lecture*
April 21, 2015
7:30pm
An Archaeology of “End of Empire?” Material Record and Political Change in Late-Antique Iberia. Lecturer: Damian Fernandez. Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, Rockford Society in collaboration with Burpee Museum of Natural History and The Classics Department of Rockford University. For more information contact Sherrilyn Martin at 815.397.9319.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

*Adult Learning Program: Haiku for You*
April 21, 2015
7-8pm
Time to be mindful and live in the moment as we welcome the arrival of spring! Enjoy elements of nature and learn techniques for capturing the moment with haiku. Weather permitting, we will venture out to the riverfront and create a simple Japanese-style book to record your poetry pieces! Registration required. $10 members/ $12 nonmembers. For more information contact Betsy Carlson at 815.965.3433 x1029.

Welty Environmental Center

*Earth Day Evening Hike*
Wednesday, April 22 at Big Hill Park, Beloit, WI 5:30 p.m.
Meet at the first pavilion in Big Hill Park for a leisurely hike to celebrate Earth Day. There should be early wildflowers blooming, migrating birds returning, and tree frogs beginning to sing. Please bring good hiking shoes for some intermediate hiking in this hilly park. David Sobel said, “If we want our children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the Earth before we ask them to save it.” Renew your love for the Earth after the long winter! Feel free to bring a picnic supper. Donations are accepted. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for more information and registration. Please register by April 21.
The Beauty of OUR County
Wednesday, April 22
6:00 p.m.
Severson Dells Nature Center. Enjoy social time after the program.

We will be kicking off the Walkabout series this year with a great program and also a time for a gathering of good people. Come out and celebrate Earth Day! Learn about the upcoming walks!

Sometimes here in Northern Illinois it is easy to “escape” to Wisconsin, or jump in the family car and head west to beautiful places. Severson Dells Biologist/Educator Greg Keilback is here to remind you how lucky we are to live and enjoy the beauty of Winnebago County. This program will highlight a few of the many gems that exist around us and belong to ALL OF US! Perhaps you will learn more about some of your already favorite spots? Contact Severson Dells at 815-335-2915 or Natural Land Institute at 815-964-6666 for more information.

Byron Forest Preserve District
Homeschool Program - All That Energy!
Friday, April 24
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Where does our energy come from? Flip a switch—? We’ll take a look at our solar panels and wind turbine, and spot the cooling towers of the Exelon plant in the distance, and talk about how these energies are different and how they are the same. But that’s not all…we’ll learn how this is related to food chains and the energy in our bodies. Participants will take observations using various equipment and draw conclusions that relate to real-world things. They’ll also take home projects to continue and use in the sun! Bring a lunch; snack and drink are included. For ages 6 and up. Cost is $5.00 per person. Register by Tuesday, April 21 by calling 815 234-8535.

Welty Environmental Center &
Beloit Memorial High School Ecology Club
Hoo Haven Live Animal Show
Friday, April 24 at Beloit Memorial High School
5:00 p.m.

What critters are lurking in the yards, parks and wild lands near your house? Bring the whole family for this live animal encounter! Hoo Haven, local wildlife rehabilitators, will be bringing several live animals who may be your neighbor to see and learn about. This show is great for families of all ages! Please call for ticket costs.

Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and tickets.
Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

**Arbor Dash 5k**

Friday, April 24
6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Arbor Day with a run through the woods! The second annual Arbor Dash is a non-competitive fun run through Klehm’s 155 acres of unique trees and glorious gardens at twilight. Part road race, part trail run, the Arbor Dash is open to runners and walkers of all ages and fitness levels, and everyone leaves with their very own tree!

Participants will receive a commemorative Arbor Dash t-shirt, entrance to Klehm’s grounds for the day, a seedling to plant, and more. Your registration fee will help Klehm continue to fulfill our mission to maintain a living museum for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all people.

Registration: Before April 17 $15 for members, $20 for non-members; after April 17 $25 for everyone.

**Schedule**

April 21-23 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Packet pick up at Klehm Arboretum Visitor Center

April 24 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Race check-in

6:30 p.m. Race begins

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Jr. Girl Scout- Jeweler Badge Workshop**

April 25, 2015
10am-2pm

Join us at Burpee Museum as you have fun earning your Jeweler Badge. We’ll explore jewelry from other cultures and get a close-up look at pieces from the museum’s collections. You’ll get to design and create jewelry of your own to take home, and something to give to a friend or relative. Cost: $15/ scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/ each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

**Great American Cleanup™**

Saturday, April 25

Pre-registration preferred by April 17

Headquarters and same-day registration: Patriot’s Gateway Center, 615 S. 5th Street, Rockford
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.: Equipment pickup at 15 locations
9:00 a.m. – Noon: Litter pickup throughout Boone and Winnebago Counties

Pre-registered teams and individual volunteers improve the look of neighborhoods and roadsides. Each team is assigned (or pre-registers for) a specific route to cover between 9 a.m.-Noon. All ages welcome.

Details and online registration: www.knib.org, Facebook, info@knib.org, or GAC Coordinator Frank Manzullo at 815-637-1343.
Angelic Organics Learning Center

Earth Day Farm Tour
Saturday, April 25
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day with an introduction to organic farming. Tour Angelic Organics, the Biodynamic vegetable farm in northern Illinois featured in the award-winning documentary film, “The Real Dirt on Farmer John.” We will explore what makes this a Biodynamic and community supported agriculture (CSA) farm. Learn basic strategies for growing food without chemical inputs and see the seasonal work underway at the farm. Wear sturdy shoes (conditions may be muddy!) and clothes appropriate for the weather. $20 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Severson Dells Nature Center

Writing in the Warmth: A Spring Into Thought
Saturday, April 25
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join Severson Dells Biologist/Educator Greg Keilback for an exploration in awareness. We will meet in the classroom and using writing prompts from multiple authors develop a working conversation in environmental topics of multiple issues. If you feel you have a voice, or thoughts on the state of environmental issues locally, or globally I would like to hear yours. Together our voice can be heard and movements can grow. If you are apprehensive of sharing your thoughts, that’s ok. Come and listen and enjoy the hot chocolate! Contact Severson Dells to register at 815-335-2915.

Byron Forest Preserve District

Fossil Hunt
Saturday, April 25
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meet behind Byron Forest Preserve Restoration Department building on German Church Road just north of the Byron Forest Preserve Jarrett Preserve main entrance

Join us at the quarry any time; stay for a half hour or for the whole event! We’ll be digging through the piles before there’s any spring growth to see what we can find. Bring a hammer to crack open the bigger ones and a bucket to cart away your finds. Fossil identification and guides provided. Cost is $2.00 per person. Please register by Thursday, April 23. For more information call 815-234-8535.
Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

Botany Lab: Backyard Butterfly Garden
Saturday, April 25
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bring summer butterflies to your backyard! NCG education staff will show you how you can make your yard and community butterfly-friendly. Plant butterfly’s favorite plants to take home! (includes admission for one parent/guardian, must be present at all times) Ages 5+, $8 residents of Winnebago County, $10 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Welty Environmental Center

Community Earth Day Celebration
Saturday, April 25 at Riverside Park in Beloit, WI
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a day by the river and learn about what groups in the Beloit area are doing to reduce, reuse, recycle, conserve and preserve our local natural resources. Bring the whole family to this FREE event along the bike path on the Rock River. Are you a group or organization that would like to set up a display? Contact Lena at 608-361-1377 to reserve your spot! Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for more information.

Byron Forest Preserve District

National Astronomy Day
Saturday, April 25
4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Meet at the Weiskopf Observatory

Check out our three telescopes, make a space-based craft and take our astronomy quiz as we view the night sky. For ages 5 and up. Register for this FREE program by Thursday, April 23 by calling 815-234-8535.

Severson Dells Nature Center

The Howlin’ Brothers
Saturday, April 25
Doors at 6:00 p.m., Show at 7:00 p.m.
$20 Advance ticket

The Howlin’ Brothers are a three-piece string band from Nashville that brings heart and passion into every performance. Their upbeat shows are heavy with original and traditional music, featuring the sounds of slide banjo, harmonica and old-time fiddle. It will be an awesome night of fun and great music. Give them a listen at www.thehowlinbrothers.com and then call, 815-335-2915. Supported by Kendra Swanson.
Macktown Living History
Macktown Forest Preserve, Rockton

The Gathering at Macktown
A Living History Event
Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 26, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Take a step back in time to experience American frontier life through the 1840’s. Meet traders and trappers, French voyageurs, and Native Americans. Food and mercantile vendors, demonstrations, militia maneuvers and black powder shooting. Tour original buildings on a national historic site and meet Stephen Mack as he shares his home with you. Plenty of hands-on activities, music and much more! Admission: Adults $7, Students $5, Children under 6 free. All veterans free on Sunday. Event held rain or shine. Free parking. For more information visit www.macktownlivinghistory.com, visit us on Facebook or call 815-624-4200.

Angelic Organics Learning Center
Permaculture Design Certificate Class
Saturday-Sunday, April 25 to May 3 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Permaculture is an ecological design system for more sustainable lives and communities. It combines sustainable agriculture, natural building, water management, community development and more. This 9-day course will provide students with opportunities to develop a strong understanding of the concepts and themes of the Permaculture Design System, as well as hands-on opportunities to apply the system in practical situations. The course fee includes breakfast, lunch and snacks each day. We’re excited to welcome Wayne Weiseman of the Permaculture Project to Angelic Organics Learning Center as the instructor for this course. Camping options are available. $1200 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Severson Dells Nature Center/Natural Land Institute
Wildflower Walkabout - Kilbuck Bluffs Forest Preserve
Tuesday, April 28 6:00 p.m.

Jerry Paulson will lead this walk through Kilbuck Bluffs, which was the site of Native American villages, a historic saw mill, one of the first schools in the county, the old state road from Rockford to Chicago, springs, old-growth forests and vast marshes. Kilbuck Creek itself was once the channel of the Rock River before it was
diverted to the west. Jerry will tell about the natural and cultural history of this hidden gem of a natural area, while looking for early spring woodland wildflowers. Moderate hike. 3061 South Bend Road in Rockford. From Highway 51, drive south of New Milford 1½ miles to Baxter Road, turn west, drive 1 mile.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.

Burpee Museum of Natural History
**Mahlburg Scholars Presents: The Monitoring and Protection of the Endangered Blandings Turtle in Boone County with Aaron Minson and Josh Sage.**
April 30, 2015
7-8pm
The Blandings Turtle species is endangered in Illinois. Learn about a program in Boone County to monitor and protect these endangered species…before it is too late! Free to members, $5 nonmembers.

Natural Land Institute
**Rare and Unusual Plants in Illinois’ Natural Areas**
Friday, May 1
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Katie’s Cup, 502 Seventh Street, Rockford

If you enjoy learning about plants, especially rare and unusual native plants, you will certainly enjoy this educational program, **Rare and Unusual Plants in Illinois’ Natural Areas**. **Natural Land Institute** will host an informative presentation with special guest speaker, Christopher David Benda, M.S. He will talk and show photographs about natural areas throughout Illinois and the rare and unusual plants found there. Chris is the **Visiting Plant Ecologist** for the **Illinois Natural History Survey**, **Instructor** for the **Flora of Southern Illinois** and **President** of the **Illinois Native Plant Society**. Registration is requested. Call 815-964-6666 or email: info@naturalland.org. A $5 donation to NLI will be requested at the door.
Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

Field Trip to Mississippi Palisades State Park
Saturday, May 2
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Join us on a field trip to the Mississippi Palisades State Park just north of Savanna. Due to its unique topography, unusual birds such as the Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula Warbler, and uncommon plants like Large-Flowered Trillium and Amethyst Shooting Star are found. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 8:00 a.m. or meet our group at the first parking lot inside the south entrance to the Palisades. We’ll eat lunch in Savanna and return to Freeport around 2:00 p.m. Call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 for details.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

Spring Metals and Electronics Drive
Saturday, May 2
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Machesney Town Center south parking lot, 8750 N. 2nd St. off Machesney Road, Machesney Park

Area residents may dispose of metal and electronic items, with drive-through service, in an environmentally correct manner. Appliances requiring Freon removal are charged a $10 fee per item including dehumidifiers, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. Also $10 fee for each barbeque-sized propane tank for proper EPA disposal. Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful conducts the drive twice a year, the first weekends in May and October.

Volunteers needed. Information: www.knib.org, Facebook, info@knib.org, or 815-637-1343.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

Advanced Beekeeping
Saturday, May 2
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Join Phillip Raines of Raines Honey Farm for an in-depth discussion of natural beekeeping practices. Class includes a classroom portion, and a field portion, where we’ll take a look at both top bar and Langstroth hives, and an opportunity to ask questions. This class is perfect for beekeepers with a few hives and/or lots of questions. $60 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

Scout Program for Boy Scouts: Archaeology
May 2, 2015
10am-3pm
Learn about archaeology in this hands-on workshop. Participate in a simulated archaeological dig, see and handle Native American artifacts and learn about a local Native American tribe. Two requirements will need to be completed ahead of time and reports presented during the
workshop. Leaders will be sent the requirements when they register. Bring a sack lunch and a blue card. Badges not provided. Registration and prepayment required. Cost: $15/ scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/ each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

Build a Butterfly-Friendly Garden
Saturday, May 2
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Though the butterflies are in full flight at the Nicholas Conservatory, the season for butterflies is only beginning in Northern Illinois! Come learn from Nicholas Conservatory staff how easy it is to incorporate butterfly-friendly principles into your yard and garden. Best of all participants will receive a selection of butterfly-favorite seeds and a milkweed plant to take home! Beginning gardeners welcome! $10 residents of Winnebago County, $15 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Welty Environmental Center

Between Earth and Sky - Explore the Spring World
Saturday, May 2
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Work on your Blue Bucket and Firefly Awards in the “It’s Your Planet, Love It!” Journey at this session where we will use our senses to explore the natural world around us. Be dressed to be outdoors as we explore the wonders of spring. We’ll spend our time hunting down trees, flowers, seeds and more. Sneak a peek where secret critters roam. You may even be able to help us bring back some natural treasures! This program is designed for scouts aged K-2nd grades (Daisies) but all young explorers are welcome. Cost is $5 per participant (no charge for adults). Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. Register by April 30.

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

Annual Birdathon
Sunday, May 3

Join us for our annual Birdathon! Come count birds during the spring migration. Contact Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 if you would like to participate.
Severson Dells Nature Center/Natural Land Institute

*Wildflower Walkabout - Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area*

Wednesday, May 6
6:00 p.m.

Join volunteer Brian Hale on a hunt for spring wildflowers in the fen and oak savanna habitats of the Piscasaw Fen. Participants will also see the habitat restoration that is in process at this Boone County Conservation District site. The Piscasaw Fen Area is located at the south end of Norris Lane. Norris Lane runs south off of Edson Road. Edson Road is just south and east of the Village of Poplar Grove. Easy hiking.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

*Preschoolers: Brilliant Bees!*

Friday, May 8
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Come to Angelic Organics Learning Center for our farming series especially for preschoolers and their caregivers. Bzzzz! Through stories, songs, and games, we’ll learn about these very important farm friends. We’ll even check out their hives and taste some honey. Registration is per child age 2-5. $12 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

*Plant Sale Preview Night*

Friday, May 8
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Shop early for the best selection of annuals, perennials, herbs, wildflowers and unusual plants. Many plants are from the area’s best gardeners – Klehm members! Preview Night is limited to our indoor location only. $5 admission

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

*Spring Plant Sale*

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Plan to spend Mother’s Day weekend shopping for this year’s garden stock. The plant Sale expands to include our outdoors location, too. Choose from hundreds of colorful plants, including unique varieties from local nurseries. Afterwards, you’re welcome to stroll the beautiful Klehm grounds to see what’s blooming. Donations of plants are always welcome! Free Admission.
Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful  
**Spring Clothing Drive**  
Saturday, May 9  
- Schnucks Market parking lots in Winnebago County  
- Belvidere Township Building, 8200 Fairgrounds Road, Belvidere, Boone County  
  9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Recycle bagged clean, unwanted or unusable clothing and textiles for redistribution or to be recycled into new products such as carpet padding. Drive-through drop-off sites. Items accepted include clothing for men, women and children; accessories, such as purses, belts and hats; linens; stuffed toys; soft-sided luggage; throw rugs. Plastic bags only; no boxes or hangers. Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful conducts the drive three times a year, the second weekends in May, July and October.  
Volunteers needed. Information: [www.knib.org](http://www.knib.org), Facebook, info@knib.org, or 815-637-1343.

Natural Land Institute  
**Spring Stewardship Day**  
Saturday, May 9  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
May is Illinois Invasive Species Month. Join us to create awareness about one of the greatest threats to our natural habitats by volunteering to help remove non-native invasive plants. All ages are invited to participate in this public stewardship day at **Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve** where participants will help remove invasive brush like bush honeysuckle and buckthorn and herbaceous plants like garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed.  
Individuals, families, scout troops and other groups are welcome to participate. Sturdy shoes, long sleeves, pants and gloves are recommended. Free. Registration is requested. Please call the Natural Land Institute at 815.964.6666 or email info@naturalland.org for more information and to register by Friday, May 8, 2015. **Directions:** from Meridian Road turn west onto McGregor Road and travel about a mile to Weldon Road. Take Weldon Road north about a mile, parking is on the east side of the road. **GPS:** 42.201612,-89.194844.
Severson Dells Nature Center

“Get into the GROVE”
Saturday, May 9
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wildflowers are up, trees are leaving out, it is certainly time to get back into the Grove and - observe-play-discover-create!! We’ll kick this year off with a day of nature play that will include activities in drumming, singing, art, as well as all of us taking in part in the great experience of just being outside! Check www.seversondells.org for full schedule or call 815-335-2915.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

Animal Day for Families
Saturday, May 9
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate Mother’s Day at our organic farm for a day of hands-on experiences with the animals. Milk the goats, feed the horses, and gather eggs from the chickens. See how you can produce soil from kitchen scraps with worm boxes. Make goat’s milk ice cream and enjoy a sack lunch under the trees near our timber frame barn. Please register for each family member age 3 and up. $20 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory

17th Annual BIRDFEST
Saturday, May 9, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Colored Sands Forest Preserve

Look for close encounters with birds and other wildlife at the 17th Annual BIRDFEST! Admission is $3/adults; $.50/ages 3-12; free/children 2 & younger.

Admission includes information and demonstrations on bird banding, raptors, reptiles and insects, attracting birds to your yard with native plants, photographing birds, nature hikes, children’s activities, and much more. Bird and nature items and food for sale. Silent Auction helps the net fund and other operating costs. Looking for a special family activity where you can encounter nature? It’s Mother’s Day Weekend: bring your Mother and Grandmother for a very special day! Share the joys of nature with your children and grandchildren. Wheelchair accessible. This weekend is the peak time for migration – expect great birds! Rain-or-shine…Birdfest still continues to be an outstanding experience! Check our website: www.sandbluff.org.
Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Jr. Girl Scout- Animal Habitats Badge Workshop**
May 9, 2015
10am-2pm
Explore the amazing world of animal habitats of the Rock River Valley through the museum;s exhibits and beautiful grounds. Check out different kinds of animals, some live, and try your hand at making an animal home. Learn how to turn your own backyard into an animal habitat! Cost: $15/ scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Burpee Explorers: Little Giants**
May 9, 2015
1-2:30pm
Ages 6 and up
Who are the little giants today? Meet frogs; our hidden carnivores of the wetlands. Discover how modern amphibians are essential to the health of our environment. Get up close to preserved frogs! Cost: $20 per child. Child must be accompanied by an adult. One adult require for up to two children. For more information contact Betsy Carlson at 815.965.3433 x1029.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Eat Your Weeds! An Introduction to Wild Edibles**
Sunday, May 10
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Learn how to identify wild edible plants at this hands-on workshop for the future forager. We’ll cover some basic botany, then explore the woods looking for wild foods. We’ll return to the kitchen to sample different recipes for your wild treasures. You might even make it a Mother’s Day outing with Mom! $60 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Home-milked Ice Cream**
Sunday, May 10
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Can you guess which ingredients in ice cream come from the farm? Together, we’ll milk the goats, visit the beehive, and look for fruit around our organic farm. Then, we’ll make up a batch of home-grown, homemade ice cream. We’ll even get to eat this sweet treat together. Bring your mom! Please register for each family member age 3 and up. $12 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.
Severson Dells Nature Center/Natural Land Institute

Wildflower Walkabout - Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve
Tuesday, May 12
6:00 p.m.

Dave Kostka of Angelic Organics Learning Center will take us on a tour of the Pecatonica Wetlands Preserve, which includes river edge floodplain forest, oxbow pond marshes and upland forest along the Pecatonica River. The site has outstanding spring flora and birdlife. Dave will help us identify frogs on this walk from their calls. Pecatonica Wetlands may be accessed just north of Pecatonica and the Pecatonica River, on the west side of Pecatonica Road. 4550 North Pecatonica Road, Pecatonica. Hiking will be easy to moderate.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.

Boone County Conservation District

Bird Hikes
Tuesday, May 12 - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 16 - 7:00 a.m.

Join BCCD Volunteer John Todt for a walk to view the birds. This is the time of year when a lot of species of birds might be migrating through the area. Meet at the Lions Shelter which is located near the fishing ponds in Spencer Conservation Area. Call 815-547-7935 for more information.

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

Silver Creek Bird Festival
Saturday, May 16
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

This informative, fun, family-friendly morning will give you the opportunity to explore the Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve for the many migrating and resident birds found there. Participants may join guided bird tours or look on their own for our feathered friends. Tours will begin at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. Free “Illinois Birds” pocket guides will be distributed while supplies last. We’ll have a shady rest area with chairs, as well as a restroom, beverages and snacks. The preserve is located about 2 miles south of Leaf River. The parking area is off of Leaf River Road. For additional details call the Blackmores at 815-938-3204.
Atwood Center

*In the Outdoors – Real Life Twitter*
Saturday, May 16
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

We will be sending out some tweets to see what we can hear back in return – Join us at Atwood Park to search out some of our fine feathered friends as they ring in Spring! After an up-close experience with our birds of prey, we will venture over to our life-size eagle’s nest. Compare your wingspan with those of our featured birds! All ages are welcome, from fledgling to adult. Questions? Please call our office at 815-874-7576. **Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.**

Welty Environmental Center

*Super Saturday Day Camp - April Showers
Bring May Flowers*
Saturday, May 16
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Summer may not be here yet, but you can still come to camp! Spring wildflowers are only around for a little bit, so let’s get out and check them out. We will explore the oak savanna for new sprouts, pick some invasive species to help them out, and see what critters are out exploring too. Be dressed to explore outdoors! Participants need to bring a lunch, but afternoon snack and drinks will be provided. Camp is open to children ages 6-12 years. Cost is $15 per Welty member, $20 per nonmember. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. **Register by May 14. Limited to 15 participants.**

Angelic Organics Learning Center

*Cheesemaking*
Saturday, May 16
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This hands-on workshop in our farm setting will introduce the process of cheese making from start to finish. You’ll get real experience milking the goats as well as making ricotta, chevre, mozzarella and more. Finally, you’ll get to sample your very own handcrafted cheese. $70 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.
Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

**Community Dog Walk**
Sunday, May 17
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bring your canine friends to spend a day enjoying and exploring our entire 155 acres of gardens and grounds. Our Community Dog Walk is meant to be informal and fun so there’s no scheduled programs, but we do have a cause. Visitors are encouraged to offer cash donations to support Kibble Korner, Rockford’s pet food pantry. Dogs must be leashed and well behaved. All dogs and Klehm members are free.

Half Price Admission: $3 adults, $1.50 seniors, kids and students

Angelica Organics Learning Center

**The “Ins” and “Outs” of Composting**
Sunday, May 17
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Want to increase your compost confidence? Then this is the workshop for you. Learn what makes a successful compost pile, and decide which methods will work best for your household. This class provides an overview of various types of compost bins, plus hands-on experience building a compost pile together. You’ll even learn about our farm-scale compost operation and meet the worms in our vermiculture system, then find out how to implement indoor worm composting at home. Dress to work outside! $45 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Byron Forest Preserve District

**Beekeeping Workshop**
Sunday, May 17
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Learn beekeeping techniques and tools of the trade. This workshop will cover when to put on supers, swarm prevention and raising queens. Bring your beesuits as we may be going outside. Cost is $2 per person. No advance registration is required for this workshop. For more information call 815-234-8535.

Severson Dells Nature Center/Natural Land Institute

**Wildflower Walkabout - Howard D. Coleman Dells Nature Preserve**
Wednesday, May 20
6:00 p.m.

Greg Keilback of Severson Dells Nature Center will lead our hike on this property owned and managed by the Natural Land Institute. This 55-acre nature preserve is located along Hall Creek, southwest of Rockford. One of the attractive
features of this preserve is a series of cliffs known as the dells. Many unique plants restricted to limestone and dolomite outcrops are found here, as well as some northern relict plants. The floral display in the upland woods is one of the best in Winnebago County. Aldo Leopold and Paul Riis conducted some early deer studies in this preserve in the mid 1930’s. Colman Dells is located near the intersection of East Severson Road and North Weldon Road. From Meridian and Montague Road, drive south and turn west onto McGregor Road, turn north onto Weldon Road. Moderate-difficult hiking.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.

Wild Ones- Rock River Valley Chapter

Program: Ancient Beauty: Native Ferns for the Garden

Thursday, May 21

Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Have you considered including ferns in your native garden? Native Midwestern ferns can add a sense of architecture to your garden by supplying a variety of shapes, textures and colors. Ed Cope, Restoration Ecologist for the Natural Land Institute, will present an illustrated overview of our local fern species, their characteristics, status, and recommendations for incorporating into home landscapes. Pick up your photo field guide to the ferns of Winnebago County. This program is free and open to the public. Call 815-494-6977 for more information.
Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

**Cell Phones for Soldiers Drive**
Saturday, May 23

- Rockford Recycle Center: 4665 Hydraulic Road, Rockford (off South Alpine)
- 13125 N. Second Street, Roscoe (IL 251 east access road, ½ mile north of McCurry Road)
  9:00 a.m. – Noon

Recognizing Armed Forces Week and the service of veterans and active-duty military, any cell phones donated on this date will be donated to Cell Phones 4 Soldiers, a non-profit which uses proceeds to provide calling cards and cell phones to military personnel far from home or veterans in need. Cell phones are regularly accepted for recycling at either Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Recycle Center to benefit the educational programs of the organization.

Information: [www.knib.org](http://www.knib.org), Facebook, [info@knib.org](mailto:info@knib.org), or 815-637-1343.

Macktown Living History
Macktown Forest Preserve, Rockton

**Woodland Gourd Vessel Class**
Saturday, May 23
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join us in our Native American Village and Education Center to learn the technique of stencil design and woodburning a gourd vessel lined with beeswax in the Woodlands Native American style. Participants can choose to make a storage vessel or birdhouse. All materials and tools provided. $35 (no credit cards, please). Class size is limited.

To register call 815-624-4200 or 815-624-0514 or email macktown1@frontier.com.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Beginner Herbalism Intensive**
Saturday-Sunday, May 23-24
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Want to be self-sufficient in taking prevention & basic health care needs into your own hands? Learn an abundance of sustainable green medicine alternatives for you, your family and even your community if you’re considering a clinical practice in the future. Herbs & natural remedies will be introduced for each phase of the life cycle—pregnancy to elder years. Plus, we’ll have a special session on herbs to cope with contemporary life stressors—anxiety, depression, weak immunity, chronic pain and environmental toxins. You’ll create several botanical remedies to take home for your new natural medicine cabinet. Light lunch included both days. Inquire about camping options.

$250 Please pre-register at [www.learngrowconnect.org](http://www.learngrowconnect.org).
Severson Dells Nature Center/Natural Land Institute

**Wildflower Walkabout - Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve**

Tuesday, May 26

6:00 p.m.

Mark Keister will lead a hike through this preserve, which boasts woodland, stream and dolomite cliffs and a great bird population. It is home to many northern relic species as well as a good spring wildflower display. We’ll hope to catch one of the nicest displays of Green Dragon in the area in bloom. 16999 Comly Road, Seward. 12 miles west of Rockford on Highway 20 to Pecatonica Road, south 1 mile to Comly Road, west 1½ miles.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

**Get Outside! free outdoor recreation passport**

May 30 through August 1

Forest Preserves throughout Winnebago County

Discover Nature, Win Stuff! Get Outside! is a back-to-nature event that is FREE and accessible for all ages. Participating families will function as a “team” and are encouraged to engage in a friendly competition as they explore forest preserves. Register to receive a Get Outside! passport; this will be your coupon book for free admission to dozens of FREE activities! Participate in just a couple or several. Form a team of two or more and compete with other teams to see how many points you can earn hiking, paddling, camping, golfing and exploring nature. Bring your passport with you to all the self-guided and scheduled activities and have it validated so you can earn points to qualify for a grand prize! Not all of your team members need to attend every activity. Earn enough points and you qualify for grand prizes. See the full schedule of events and register for Get Outside! at winnebagoforest.org.

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

**Nature Fiesta**

Saturday, May 30

Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve (entrance on Mulford Road)

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

360 Mulford Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Bring the family to this outdoor event to discover local nature! Exhibits, crafts, activities and guided hikes will help explorers of all ages learn about our local butterflies, birds, trees, flowers and rivers. Materials and activities will provide educational information in Spanish and English. Free and open to the public.
Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

Get Outside! Kick-off
Saturday, May 30
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve
360 Mulford Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Join us at Nature Fiesta to pick up your free Get Outside passport. This will be a fun family-oriented afternoon of learning and activities to whet your appetite for all the hiking, paddling, camping, fishing, river study, gardening, and nature discovery that will be offered in June and July through Get Outside! This kick-off is where you can pick up your passport and all the information and materials you need to take advantage of free summer fun in the forest preserves. Nature displays, guided hikes, outdoor recreation, nature education materials.

Byron Forest Preserve District

Canoe Tour of the Rock River – Oregon to Castle Rock State Park
Saturday, May 30
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Take a scenic two-hour guided canoe tour down the Rock River from just below the dam in Oregon to Castle Rock State Park. View the area’s many unique St. Peter sandstone rock formations and miles of hardwood forest along one of the most scenic stretches of the Rock River. For ages 12 and up. Must have at least one adult per canoe and no more than three people per canoe. Cost is $10 per person. To register call 815-234-8535 no later than Wednesday, May, 27.

Welty Environmental Center

Getting Buggy - Bugs Naturalist Badge
Saturday, May 30
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Work to earn your Bugs Naturalist badge as we learn the amazing truth about bugs of all kinds. We’ll look for creepy crawlers with nets, BugZookas and magnifying glasses as we get down to their level. Search under logs, in the sky and even underwater to find these critters that outnumber people on the planet. Be ready to be outdoors most of the time in this hands-on program. This program is designed for scouts grades 2-4, but all interested explorers are welcome. Cost is $5 per participant. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. Register by May 27.
Welty Environmental Center

*Time to Bloom - Flowers Naturalist Badge*

Saturday, May 30
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Spring has sprung and the flowers are blooming. Find out why some flowers only bloom in the early spring, then disappear for the rest of the year. We may even find some rare flowers as we work on the Flowers Naturalist badge. Dress to be outdoors as this program is hands on! This program will take place at WEC. This program is designed for scouts grades 4-5, but all interested explorers welcome. Cost is $5 per participant. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. **Register by May 27.**

Angelic Organics Learning Center

*Earth Oven and Cob Bench Workshop*

Saturday, May 30
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Learn all about building with cob, a sustainable building material, in this fun, hands-on class. Earth ovens are a great introduction to natural building, using age-old techniques and simple materials such as clay, sand, and straw. We’ll mix cob and earthen plaster, and provide you with the green building skills to build an oven in your own backyard. Bring a dish to pass for potluck lunch. This workshop is held off site at the beautiful Dome Education & Gathering Center in Roscoe, IL. $80 Please pre-register at [www.learngrowconnect.org](http://www.learngrowconnect.org).

Burpee Museum of Natural History

*Scout Program for Boy Scouts: Bird Study*

May 30, 2015
10am-1:45pm

This workshop will cover identifying characteristics of birds, bird calls, and equipment. We will take a walk along the river to see how many birds we can spot and identify, and make a bird feeder to take home. There will be some homework required, to be completed ahead, to earn this badge. Bring a sack lunch and blue card. Badges not provided. Registration and prepayment required. Cost: $12/scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.
Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

**Garden Together**
Saturdays, May 30, June 13, 27, July 11, 25, August 8
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

You know homegrown fruits and veggies are good for you, but did you know that the act of gardening together is good for your family? Gardening together builds strong relationships, fosters communication and gives families a purposeful and fun common goal. In this 6-session program you will learn gardening basics as well as how to engage your family in gardening fun! A selection of plants and seeds are provided for your home garden plus enjoy fun family projects during each session. Geared towards beginning gardeners with children ages 12 and under. Container gardeners welcome! Meets every other Saturday. $200 residents of Winnebago County, $250 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Severson Dells Nature Center

**Full Moon Frogging**
Tuesday, June 2
6:30 p.m.
At Pecatonica River Forest Preserve

Meet at Pecatonica River Forest Preserve shelterhouse. We’ll talk about the different species of frogs and toads found in northern IL. We’ll listen to their calls and explain the importance of conducting surveys. Depending on the weather, we’ll walk to the oxbow lake (easy 1 mile walk there and back), listen and document any frogs or toads heard. We’ll then carpool to Pecatonica Wetlands and other properties of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County and survey there. Ages 8 and older. Registration required. 815-335-2915

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

**Watercolor Workshop with Ingrid Dohm**
Tuesdays, June 2 & 9
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Join professional watercolor artist Ingrid Dohm for an educational hands-on workshop in painting florals. Some previous art experience preferred. Ages 16+, $65 residents of Winnebago County, $70 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.
Severson Dells Nature Center/Natural Land Institute

**Wildflower Walkabout - Big Predators of Illinois/Evening Stroll**

Wednesday, June 3
6:00 p.m.

At Severson Dells Forest Preserve

Peg Doty Program on “Large Predators Return…Or Are They?”

Cougars, wolves, and bears have all been spotted in Illinois over the past few years. There are many reasons, scientific and unknown, why we are starting to see the occasional lone large predator in Illinois. It is important for people to understand why we are hearing about these mammals in Illinois more often. The animals are simply trying to adjust to changes in their current environments which can send them our direction. Due to the sightings of cougars, wolves, and even black bears in Illinois, this program is being offered to discuss the animals themselves and the behaviors that may be playing a part in their attempts to return.

Join Don Miller of Severson Dells on this easy walk through the late spring flora of S.D. Forest Preserve. A beautiful and relaxing walk along Hall Creek to the Dells, good sightings all the way there and back and good conversation too. Lions, Tigers, and Bears?…we’ll see what Peg had to say about that! (See April 22 for details on Walkabout series).

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Mornings at the Museum: Insects**

Thursday, June 4
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6

This camp is for the younger set with an interest in nature. The morning will be spent exploring exhibits, hands-on activities, stories, games and take home projects. (6 year olds who have not completed Kindergarten). Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register.

$15.00 members/ $18.00 public per participant per session. Participants need to bring a snack.
Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

**Garden Fair**
Friday, June 5, 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 6, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 7, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Don’t miss Rockford’s premier outdoor living marketplace, the first stop for nature enthusiasts, conscientious consumers, and gardeners of all stripes. More than 50 vendors will showcase everything from flowers, yard art and gardening tools to vintage furniture, reclaimed wood products and handmade organic soaps. There’s a little something for everyone!

**Tickets on sale April 6, 2015**
$5 in advance | $8 at the door | kids 12 & under free
Members free when they show their membership card
For group ticketing information, please contact Dawn Pfluger at dpfluger@klehm.org.

**We will be closed Friday, June 5th until Garden Fair begins at 12:00 p.m.**

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

**Free Family Fishing Day**
Saturday, June 6
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Four Lakes Forest Preserve
10207 Fish Hatchery Road, Pecatonica, IL 61063

Go fishing with family and friends without buying a fishing license on this free fishing day. Forest Preserve staff will be on hand to assist with getting your line in the water. Kids Fishing Derby will award prizes for largest fish in various age categories. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a picnic by the lake.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Brownie: Home Scientist Badge Workshop**
June 6, 2015
10am-12pm
Join us for some science adventures! We’ll dabble with chemistry and create electricity. We’ll explore geology as we check out crystals and grow some to take home that you can eat! We may even erupt a volcano!! Cost: $10/ scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/ each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.
Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Brownie: Bugs Badge Workshop**
June 6, 2015
1-3pm
Let’s explore the Burpee grounds to find some amazing bugs. We’ll see if we can figure out what they’re doing and why. We’ll check out different kinds of bugs, discover which ones are helpful to us and which ones aren’t. Join us for the day of buggy fun! Cost: $10/ scout, one adult for every 5 scouts free, additional adults $5/ each. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at 815.965.3433 x1018.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

**Botany Lab: LEGO in the Garden**
Saturday, June 6
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Connect with your love of LEGO® at Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens! Design and build a botanical mosaic from LEGO® tiles that you can keep! Also, assemble a giant LEGO® flower mock-up to use in your garden at home! Space is limited in this morning of hands-on fun, so reserve your spot today! (includes admission for one parent/guardian, must be present at all times) Ages 5+, $8 residents of Winnebago County, $10 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Angelics Organics Learning Center

**Home-milked Ice Cream**
Saturday, June 6
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Can you guess which ingredients in ice cream come from the farm? Together, we’ll milk the goats, visit the beehive, and look for fruit around our organic farm. Then, we’ll make up a batch of home-grown, homemade ice cream. We’ll even get to eat this sweet treat together. Yum! Please register for each family member age 3 and up. $12 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Welty Environmental Center

**Orienteering 101**
Saturday, June 6
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Could you find your way in the woods even if the GPS in your phone was not working? This program will take you through the basics of finding your way when lost in a hands-on way. We will learn how to use a compass, then as a challenge create an orienteering course and follow one. This program will take place at Big Hill Park. This program is designed for scouts, but all interested participants are welcome. Cost is $5 per participant. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. Register by June 3.
Welty Environmental Center

**Leafing Out - Trees Naturalist Badge**
Saturday, June 6 at Big Hill Park, Beloit, WI 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

How can you tell a deciduous from a coniferous tree? How many different types of oak trees grow in the area? Find out this and more as you explore the forest. Practice everything from tree identification to eating a tree and everything in between at this program. We’ll be outdoors for most of this hands-on program, so dress accordingly. Be ready to be an arborist by the time we’re done! This program will take place at Big Hill Park. This program is designed for scouts, but open to all interested participants. Cost is $5 per participant. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. **Register by June 3.**

Macktown Living History
Macktown Forest Preserve, Rockton

**Medicinal Herbs Class**
Saturday, June 6
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come and see our medicine wheel garden and heritage garden. Learn about herbal medicines and other historic uses of local herbs as used by Native Americans and early settlers. $5

To register or for more information call 815-262-6863 or email macktown1@frontier.com.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Cheesemaking**
Saturday, June 6
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This hands-on workshop in our farm setting will introduce the process of cheese making from start to finish. You’ll get real experience milking the goats as well as making ricotta, chevre, mozzarella and more. Finally, you’ll get to sample your very own handcrafted cheese. $70

Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

**Crayon Recycling**
Saturdays, June 6 & 13
- Rockford Recycle Center: 4665 Hydraulic Road, Rockford (off South Alpine) 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays
9 a.m.-Noon Saturdays
• 13125 N. Second Street, Roscoe (IL 251 east access road, ½ mile north of McCurry Road)

9 a.m.-Noon Saturdays
Free drop-off of broken, discarded or unused crayons collected at the end of the school year or from day cares, home-school families and restaurants, at the Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Recycle Centers. Families or youth groups may sort by color and peel off labels and bring pre-separated (not required). Once collected, volunteers will melt the crayon pieces down to make new wax markers in fun shapes used for distribution to area school children participating in environmental education programs.

Volunteers needed. Contact for schedule. Information: www.knib.org, Facebook, info@knib.org, or 815-637-1343.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful
**Golf Play Day**
Monday, June 8
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club, 5151 Guilford Road, Rockford

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful offers a day at this private course featuring fun contests, lunch and refreshments. Sponsorship opportunities and details: www.knib.org, Facebook, info@knib.org, or 815-637-1343.

Severson Dells Nature Center
**Canoe Convoy**
June 8 – July 20, Monday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we explore the miles upon miles of wonderful paddling opportunities we have in Winnebago County! Staff instructors and volunteers will help you learn to be a more skillful and confident paddler. Equipment and guides are provided for $20.00 and there is a $5.00 shuttle fee if needed. You must call weekly to register and find out club’s location for the evenings paddle. Every week will feature a different river or stretch of river. Times will vary in length. YOU MUST CALL TO REGISTER BEFORE THE FRIDAY PRIOR TO GET INFORMATION. Ages 10 and up. We reserve the right to cancel evening paddle if conditions are not favorable. 815-335-2915
Wildflower Walkabout - Cal Ferguson Forest Preserve
Tuesday, June 9
6:00 p.m.

Lee and Lynda Johnson of the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory will lead this hike to the newest acquisition of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. The property spans more than 520 acres at the confluence of the Sugar and Pecatonica rivers in Shirland. It is home to several threatened plant species and about 150 species of birds. It is a migratory stop for the federally endangered whooping crane. Moderate hiking. Meet at the boat launch along the west bank of the Pecatonica River at Two Rivers Forest Preserve, 12251 Harrison Road in Harrison.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.

River of Thought
Wednesday, June 10
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Oak Ridge Forest Preserve

Relax your mind and let the River tell you what to write. Or use this as that rare time you schedule a nap by a river! Sit by the shore with your feet in the water or find a rock in the stream to let the river wash away your stress. Bring a journal and binoculars; you will be amazed at what you can accomplish. Creative writing can be done by all at any level. Greg Keilback from Severson Dells will point you in the right direction and serve as a sounding board. We can share what we write and share in the beauty of the Oak Ridge Forest Preserve. Bring your family and enjoy the morning! Register by calling 815-335-2915.

Welty Wednesdays
Every Wednesday June 10 - August 5 (no sessions 6/24 or 7/22)
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Join us for summer mornings of stories, hands-on nature activities and games, crafts and a snack. Each week will feature a different nature theme. Ages 5-10 years can come on their own, and
children 4 years and under are welcome when accompanied by a caregiver. This program is a gentle introduction to the natural world. Topics include World of Bugs, Seeds & Soil, Fishing 101, Frog Legs, Weather Wonders, Natural Art and Creek Stomp. Cost is $8 for Welty members or $10 for nonmembers, and $5 for all our friends 4 years old and younger. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. **Register by the Monday before each session.**

Welty Environmental Center

**Friday Fun Days**

Every Friday June 12 - August 7 (no sessions 6/26 or 7/24) 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This weekly day of nature exploration is open to children ages 6-12 years. Each Friday we will have a different nature theme, but every day includes hands-on nature study, outdoor play, games and crafts. Topics include Spineless Wonders, Life in a Seed, Fishing Fun, Cold-Blooded Critters, Whatever the Weather, Art & Nature, and Creekside. Pick and choose sessions, or come to them all! Cost is $15 per Welty member, or $20 per nonmember. Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for information and registration. **Register by the Wednesday before each session.**

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

**Medication Collection**

Saturday, June 13

Three locations:

- **South Beloit Fire Department**, 429 Gardner Street, South Beloit 9 a.m. – Noon
- **Belvidere Township Building**, 8200 Fairgrounds Road, Belvidere 9 a.m. – Noon
- **Machesney Town Center South parking lot**, 8750 N. 2nd Street, off Machesney Road, Machesney Park 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Medication Collection offers a free, legal drop-off for unwanted/ unneeded/expired prescription, over-the-counter or veterinary medications, including inhalers and mercury-filled thermometers, under appropriate supervision. No illegal drugs, needles, sharps or bio-hazardous materials accepted. Medications are preferred in the original identifying container or prescription bottles. Mark out or remove personal information. Packaging is also recycled. Please help keep such items out of the waste and water streams to protect your family!

Information: [www.knib.org](http://www.knib.org), Facebook, info@knib.org, or 815-637-1343.
Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

**Flag Recycling**
Saturday, June 13

- Rockford Recycle Center: 4665 Hydraulic Road, Rockford (off South Alpine)
  9 a.m. – Noon
- 13125 N. Second Street, Roscoe (IL 251 east access road, ½ mile north of McCurry Road)
  9 a.m. – Noon

In observance of Flag Day, any type of official flag will be respectfully accepted at either Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Recycle Centers and turned over to Boy Scouts for proper retirement.

Information: www.knib.org, Facebook, info@knib.org, or 815-637-1343.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Food Preserving 101**
Sunday, June 14
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Feeling overwhelmed by abundance from your CSA or garden? Have you always wanted to learn canning? Then this is the workshop for you. Novice food preservers are invited to this basic introduction and practical skills course. After an overview of food safety and reasons to preserve, we jump right into hands-on demonstrations of freezing, dehydrating, and canning, using fresh strawberries as an example. Make and can a delicious jar of organic strawberry jam, then take it home with you. $45 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Byron Forest Preserve District

**Beekeeping Workshop**
Sunday, June 14
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Learn beekeeping techniques and tools of the trade. This workshop will cover honey extraction how-to’s and uses for beeswax. Bring your beesuits as we may be going outside. Cost is $2 per person. No advance registration is required for this workshop. For more information call 815-234-8535.
Severson Dells Nature Center

*Happy Trails and Bubbling Waters*

Tuesday, June 16
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join Biologist/Educator Greg on this stroll for those that want to enjoy nature at a great pace...slowly. We are giving you a reason to get up and get out and enjoy the great Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve. The walks will be easy and on established trails. Get some exercise, see some birds, and learn where the great spring bubbles up from below, whatever excuse you need, just get there. Sorry no kids allowed on this walk, just those over 40 (or at least old enough to drive) and that are kids at heart. No fee, but please call for reservations so we can notify you if there are changes and let you know of the meeting spot. 815-335-2915


Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

*Kids, Cameras n’ Brushes*

Tuesdays, June 16 – July 7
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Children will learn basic photography concepts, such as leading lines, negative space, and rule of thirds. They will frame their photographs and artwork to complete gallery-ready works of art! July 7th will be a gallery show opening complete with prizes and snacks. Children will need to provide their own digital camera (does not need to be anything fancy). Additional costs may include photo printing. If you are unable to provide a camera and are in need of assistance, please contact Lyndi Toohill at 815-987-1654. Ages 6-12 $45 residents of Winnebago County, $60 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit www.nicholasconservatory.com to register.

Severson Dells Nature Center/Natural Land Institute

*Wildflower Walkabout - Atwood Park Prairie*

Wednesday, June 17
6:00 p.m.

Board member Jack Armstrong and staff Nathan Hill from the Rockford Park District will lead a tour of this fine remnant prairie. Early summer is a great time to see an awesome display of native flora. Atwood Prairie is owned by the Rockford Park District and besides having great birds and wildflowers, the area has a rich cultural history. Easy hiking. From the intersection of Rt. 251 and Blackhawk Road, drive south, cross the Kishwaukee River and turn east on Rydberg Road.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.
Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Mornings at the Museum: Dinosaurs**
Thursday, June 18
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6

This camp is for the younger set with an interest in nature. The mornings will be spent exploring exhibits, hands-on activities, stories, games and take home projects. (6 year olds who have not completed Kindergarten). Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register.
$15.00 members/ $18.00 public per participant per session. Participants need to bring a snack.

Wild Ones- Rock River Valley Chapter

**Program: Native Seed gardens:**
**Propagating Conservative Natives to Support Restoration**
Thursday, June 18
Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Rob Sulski, stewardship volunteer and retired IL EPA, will tell the inspirational story of how he and other native plant growers are helping protect imperiled northern Illinois native plants by propagating seeds for use in landscape restorations. Learn from Sulski’s experience in using his own backyard for propagating, growing and collecting seed from some of our region’s rare native prairie and woodland plants. This program is free and open to the public. Call 815-494-6977 for more information.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

**Kids Yoga**
Friday, June 19
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

In a world of video games, ipads, computers and smart phones, children are losing the art of healthy play. With yoga as the foundation, these classes explore story-telling, theme activities and will engage the natural energy of your young yogi. Classes explore yoga poses, breathing exercises, self-expression, positive thinking and environmental awareness. Ages 6-10 $10 residents of Winnebago County, $12 non-residents. Call 815-987-8858 or visit [www.nicholasconservatory.com](http://www.nicholasconservatory.com) to register.
Boone County Conservation District

*Heritage Garden Walk*

Sunday, July 19
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Free admission

Spend a relaxing evening strolling through the Heritage Gardens at the Boone County Conservation District. Five Heritage Gardens, two authentic cabins from the 1830’s, a schoolhouse and a wigwam are at the center of the evenings events.

Gardener interpreters in period clothing will be available for all your garden questions as you tour the Yankee, Scottish, German, Norwegian and Potawatomi gardens. Learn about the many varieties of heirloom vegetables grown by settlers in the early 1800’s.

Enjoy garden treats and cold lemonade in the schoolhouse.

Boone County Garden Club of America Butterfly Garden and the Master Gardeners of Boone County Demonstration Garden are also included in the garden walk.

For more information contact Boone County Conservation District at 815-547-7935.

Severson Dells Nature Center

*Owl Prowl*

Friday, June 19
8:00 p.m.
At Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve

Join Severson Dells volunteer Richard Benning on this night hike to look and listen for the owls at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve. What goes “hoot” and “bump” in the night? An easy hike on the trails of Seward Bluff’s FP. The three most common owls of this area are the Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and the Barred Owl. Which will we hear? “Hoot” cares because it is going to be a great night. Please call for reservations. 815-335-2915

Byron Forest Preserve District

*Canoe Tour of the Rock River – Oregon to Castle Rock State Park*

Saturday, June 20
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Take a scenic two-hour guided canoe tour down the Rock River from just below the dam in Oregon to Castle Rock State Park. View the area’s many unique St. Peter sandstone rock formations and miles of hardwood forest along one of the most scenic stretches of the Rock River. For ages 12 and up. Must have at least one adult per canoe and no more than three people per canoe. Cost is $10 per person. To register call 815-234-8535 no later than Wednesday, June, 17.
Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Animal Day for Families**
Saturday, June 20
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bring your dad to the farm for a day of hands-on experiences with the animals. Help the crew milk the goats, feed the horses, and gather eggs from the chickens. See how you can produce soil from kitchen scraps with worm boxes. Make goat’s milk ice cream and enjoy a sack lunch under the trees near our timber frame barn. Please register for each family member age 3 and up. $20 Please pre-register at [www.learngrowconnect.org](http://www.learngrowconnect.org).

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

**Loaded Brush Painting Class**
Saturday, June 20
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Get creative and learn to paint in the great outdoors with Klehm and expert instructors of 317 Studio & Gallery. The class will take place in the Nancy Olson Children’s Garden gazebo and feature a brand new painting of Klehm’s very own peonies. We’ll provide everything you need – just bring your friends and a bottle of wine!

Tickets available starting Friday, May 8 | Space is limited; pre-registration required | 21+
Admission: $30 for members | $35 for non-members

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Dad’s Day Survival Skills**
Sunday, June 21
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Spend a day learning survival skills with your dad! We’ll learn to purify water, build shelter, and build fire. Plus, we’ll enjoy time in the woods and with each other. Bring a sack lunch and your sense of adventure! $18 Please pre-register at [www.learngrowconnect.org](http://www.learngrowconnect.org).

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

**Woodsong Outdoor Concert**
Sunday, June 21
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Gates open at 4:00 p.m., concert at 6:00 p.m.

Three Good Men perform great dance music popular with all ages and audiences. Concerts are held outdoors on the lawn in Klehm’s magnificent Fountain Garden. Bring a blanket & picnic dinner to enjoy during the concert. Rain location is on site – no concert will be cancelled because of weather.

Price: $5 for members | $10 for non-members | kids under 12 free
Wildflower Walkabout - Nygren Wetland Preserve Bumble Bees and Other Native Pollinators - Barbara Williams

Tuesday, June 23
6:00 p.m.

Please call to register. 815-335-2915 or 815-964-6666. Our native pollinators are an important part of our lives and our landscapes. They pollinate most flowering plants including many of our crops and the plants that provide food and habitat for wildlife. Pollinator populations reflect the health of the environment which directly affects human health and well-being.

Northern Illinois has a lot of different species of native pollinators but many of their populations are declining. This program will acquaint you with some of our bees and show you how to give them some help and a place in your garden.

We’ll start with a short session on the general outline of bumble bee identification, what is or is not a bumble bee, what features to look for and how to pick out the different species. Then we’ll go out on the prairie restoration and see if we can find five or six species of bumble bees as well as some of the other species of native pollinators that might be active. Warm summer days are a good time for bee hunting and the Nygren Wetland Preserve features a good diversity of restored habitats.

3190 West Rockton Road, Rockton.

No fee for the walk, but membership in SDNC and/or NLI is encouraged! Please contact SDNC: 815-335-2915 or NLI: 815-964-6666 for more information. Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations.
Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County

*Prairies Wildflower Hike*

Sand Ridge Prairie– Ogle County
Thursday, June 25th
6:00 p.m.

Join Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County (PPSOC) board members on a visit to this 83 acre parcel protected in 2010. The preserve contains nine high quality sand prairie knobs and acres of sand prairie being restored back to health. The site is dominated by Little Bluestem and Northern Dropseed with many other grass and sedge species throughout. Wildflowers include Pale Purple Coneflower, Goat’s Rue, Lead Plant, Prairie Coreopsis, Purple Prairie Clover, Sand Milkweed, and many more.

Sand Ridge Prairie is located south of Hwy. 64 at 2879 South Daysville Rd (three miles from Oregon). Follow the gravel driveway back in, stay left, and park at the top of the hill. There is no fee, please contact Russell Brunner at 815.238.2683 for more information. Read more about the history of this high quality site at [http://www.ppsoc.net/sand_ridge_prairie.htm](http://www.ppsoc.net/sand_ridge_prairie.htm)

Severson Dells Nature Center

*Mussel Mania*

Saturday, June 27
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
At TBA

Muckets, pigtoes, heel splitters and black sandshells-just a few of the unique creatures you might meet. Discover the secret world of freshwater mussels. Prepare for a “feet wet, hands-on” adventure. We will decide on the exact location (depends on the water levels, etc.) closer to the date and notify participants. Ages 8 and older. Registration required. 815-335-2915

Natural Land Institute

*Family Nature Day at Nygren Wetland Preserve*

Saturday, June 27
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
3190 West Rockton Road, Rockton, Illinois, 61072

Natural Land Institute presents a Family Nature Day at Nygren Wetland Preserve on Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Kids to Grandparents, families and individuals will love exploring the natural prairies, wetlands, streams and forests found in this private 721-acre wildlife refuge owned by Natural Land Institute. Kids can earn a Nygren Wetland Junior Naturalist title if they meet certain requirements and will...
receive a certificate and badge. A preserve map with stations marked on it and an activity booklet for kids to answer questions at each station will be provided. Adults will also be invited to join in visiting the stations to learn about prairies, wildflowers, trees, wetlands, birds, mammals, pollinators, archeology, invasive species, pollution and how to create a phenology journal. Registration is requested for this FREE event. Call 815-964-6666 or email: info@naturalland.org for more information and to register.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

*R4: recycled, reclaimed, reused, recrafted*

June 27 – August 23

This sculpture show by Chicago Sculpture International as well as local Rockford artists features sculpture created from recycled and reclaimed materials set among the tropical plants in Nicholas Conservatory. The theme of R4 was chosen as a celebration of Nicholas Conservatory’s LEED Gold Status.

Severson Dells Nature Center

*An Alaska Tour – Gary Gullett*

Tuesday, June 30
7:00 p.m.

Alaska is the Final Frontier, and truly one of the most unique and interesting places on the planet. Visitors are treated to spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife. Gary will talk about travel to Alaska, and offer routes to discover various gems and elements of our largest state. He will use photography to discuss the rapidly changing environment, and illustrate some of the historical and geographically significant locations. Highlights include Kenai Fjords National Park, a ferry across Prince William Sound, the National Historic Landmark Kennecott Copper Mine, unparalleled scenery of Denali National Park and so much more! Gary lives in Byron, Illinois, and uses wildlife and nature photography to create a sense of appreciation for the natural environment. He leads worldwide adventure trips for the Adventure Safari Network, and teaches photography at several community colleges in Northern Illinois.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

*Kids with Kids Day Camp, Ages 6 to 12*

Monday-Thursday, April 6 to 9
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Spend your spring break working and playing with farm animals! Our 4-day spring break camp will introduce (people) kids to the goats, right in the middle of birthing season. We’ll begin each morning with animal chores and health checks, then help care for baby goats and their mothers. Children form amazing bonds with their new goat friends while learning about responsibility and the cycle of life. Bring a sack lunch and snacks daily. This camp is for human kids ages 6 and up. $185 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.
Angelic Organics Learning Center

Fun with Farm Animals, Ages 4 to 7
Monday-Wednesday, June 8 to 10
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Make friends with your favorite farm animals at this fun farm summer day camp. We’ll work in the barnyard, groom the horse, milk the goats, and learn all about the roles of our livestock on the farm through games and hands-on work. Bring snack daily. For kids ages 4-7. $85

Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

Farm Leadership Camp, Ages 12 to 15
Monday-Thursday, June 15 to 18
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

12-15 year olds are invited to this special week of farm summer camp for teens. We’ll do animal chores daily, work in the vegetable fields and learn to lead activities to engage younger students in the life of the farm. You’ll have the option to work as a staff helper with day camps later in the summer. Bring a lunch and snack daily and dress to be in the farm environment! The week ends with a special overnight campout on Wednesday night. Will end at 12 pm on Thursday with an open house for families. $230

Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

Amazing Farm Animals Day Camp, Ages 6 to 12
Monday-Friday, June 22 to 26
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Calling all animal lovers! This is the summer day camp for you. Get to know your favorite farm animals at Amazing Farm Animals Day Camp. We’ll work in the barnyard, do chores alongside the crew, groom the horse, milk the goats, and learn all about the roles of our livestock on our organic farm through games and hands-on work. Bring lunch and snacks daily. For kids ages 6-12 years. $230

Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

Green Growers Day Camp, Ages 4 to 7
Monday-Wednesday, June 29 to July 1
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

From seeds and worms to flowers and fruits, we’ll learn all about what makes an organic farm at this half-day camp for younger children. We’ll help care for the animals and the plants, and play games and make crafts to celebrate our farm ecosystem. $85

Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.
Angelic Organics Learning Center

Farm Adventure Day Camp, Ages 9 to 12
Monday-Friday, July 6 to 10
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Join us for an exciting week of farm challenges, including a building project, a quest in the farm’s woods, cooking from scratch, and an entrepreneurial venture. Build creativity, cooperation and culinary skills at this unique summer day camp for 9-12 year-olds. $230 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Fun on the Farm Day Camp, Ages 6 to 12
Monday-Friday, July 13 to 17
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
All the most fun farm activities are packed into this day camp: making cheese, creating wacky veggie sculptures, playing farm olympics, hiking to the creek and more. Bring lunch and snacks daily. $230 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Amazing Farm Animals Day Camp, Ages 6 to 12
Monday-Friday, July 20 to 24
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Calling all animal lovers! This is the summer day camp for you. Get to know your favorite farm animals at Amazing Farm Animals Day Camp. We’ll work in the barnyard, do chores alongside the crew, groom the horse, milk the goats, and learn all about the roles of our livestock on our organic farm through games and hands-on work. Bring lunch and snacks daily. For kids ages 6-12 years. $230 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Delicious Day Camp, Ages 6 to 12
Monday-Friday, July 27 to 31
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
At this cooking camp for kids, we'll harvest fresh food from the farm, then create culinary treats to chow down on. We'll also help take care of the animals, and explore the farm. We'll even play Veggie Idol, a special farm version of the TV show. Bring your appetites, your imaginations, and let's get ready to cook! For kids ages 6-12. Bring lunch and snacks daily. $230 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.
Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Farm Camp, Ages 6 to 12**
Monday-Friday, August 3 to 7
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Be a farmer for a week! Take care of our farm animals, help tend the fruits and vegetables, and learn about what makes our farm organic, and celebrate your harvest with food from the fields. Bring lunch and hearty snack daily. This farm camp is especially for young farmers aged 6-12 years old. $230 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Angelic Organics Learning Center

**Fun with Farm Animals, Ages 4 to 7**
Monday-Wednesday, August 10 to 12
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Make friends with your favorite farm animals at this fun farm summer day camp. We’ll work in the barnyard, groom the horse, milk the goats, and learn all about the roles of our livestock on the farm through games and hands-on work. For kids ages 4-7. $85 Please pre-register at www.learngrowconnect.org.

Boone County Conservation District

**Summer Camps**

**Camp Redwing** is an outdoor environmental education day camp for children ages 6 – 11 years. It runs for 5 weeks beginning June 22nd thru July 31st. Each week offers a new theme, fishing, crafts, labs, swimming, a family night, field trip and lots of outdoor fun! Cost per week: $100/residents $120/non-residents

**Camp Redtail** is an outdoor adventure camp for youth ages 12 – 15 years, in July. It offers two 4-day overnight camping trips where participants learn basic camping skills and Leave No Trace principles. This year’s trips are caving in Maquoketa Caves State Park and canoeing in the Sylvania Wilderness area, Watersmeet, Michigan. Equipment is provided and no experience is necessary. Cost per trip: $200/residents $220/non-residents

**Camp Ducktails** is a half-day outdoor preschool camp for young children ages 4 and 5. It meets Thursday mornings starting June 25th for 5 weeks. Nature themes are explored each week and includes story-time, snack-time, and of course playtime! Cost per morning session: $15/residents $20/non-residents or $50 for all 5 sessions.

There are scholarships available to qualifying families for each camp. Check out photos from last summer on our Facebook page!!
Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Pathfinders**
Monday – Friday, June 15-19
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ages 14 - 18
Have you ever wondered what it takes to run a natural history museum? Here is your chance to find out as you spend time seeing behind the workings of different departments in Burpee Museum, including collections, prep lab, exhibits, programming. Participants will have the opportunity to act as junior assistant volunteers throughout the summer after completing this 4-day camp. Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register. $100.00 members/$125.00 public per participant per session. Participants need to bring a sack lunch and snack each day.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Explorer Camp**
Monday – Friday, June 22-26
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ages 6 - 9
Explore all things “natural history” inside & outside the Museum! This week long camp covers a different topic each day, and brings them all together on Friday. Topics include: Paleontology, Geology, Ecology, Native American groups, Astronomy. Each week covers a different aspect of the topics. Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register. $125.00 members/$150.00 public per participant per week. Participants need to bring a sack lunch and snack each day.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Pathfinders**
Monday – Friday, June 29 - July 3, 2015
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ages 14 - 18
Have you ever wondered what it takes to run a natural history museum? Here is your chance to find out as you spend time seeing behind the workings of different departments in Burpee Museum, including collections, prep lab, exhibits, programming. Participants will have the opportunity to act as junior assistant volunteers throughout the summer after completing this 4-day camp. Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register. $100.00 members/$125.00 public per participant per session. Participants need to bring a sack lunch and snack each day.
Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Explorer Camp**
Monday – Friday, July 6-10
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ages 10 - 13
Explore all things “natural history” inside & outside the Museum! This week long camp covers a different topic each day, and brings them all together on Friday. Topics include: Paleontology, Geology, Ecology, Native American groups, Astronomy. Each week covers a different aspect of the topics. Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register. $125.00 members/$150.00 public per participant per week. Participants need to bring a sack lunch and snack each day.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Explorer Camp**
Monday – Friday, July 20-24
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ages 6 - 9
Explore all things “natural history” inside & outside the Museum! This week long camp covers a different topic each day, and brings them all together on Friday. Topics include: Paleontology, Geology, Ecology, Native American groups, Astronomy. Each week covers a different aspect of the topics. Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register. $125.00 members/$150.00 public per participant per week. Participants need to bring a sack lunch and snack each day.

Burpee Museum of Natural History

**Explorer Camp**
Monday – Friday, August 3-7
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ages 10 - 13
Explore all things “natural history” inside & outside the Museum! This week long camp covers a different topic each day, and brings them all together on Friday. Topics include: Paleontology, Geology, Ecology, Native American groups, Astronomy. Each week covers a different aspect of the topics. Registration and pre-payment required. Call 815-965-3433 to register. $125.00 members/$150.00 public per participant per week. Participants need to bring a sack lunch and snack each day.
Byron Forest Preserve District

**Summer Camps**
Weekly five day camps run from June 1 to August 7
Held at the Jarrett Prairie Center
Different themes and trips each week
Times: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ages: 6-12
Cost: $100/week (includes all field trips)
    Sibling: $80/week

Latchkey $10 extra (7 am-9 am)
    $10 extra (4 pm-6 pm)
Call 815-234-8535 for more information and registration.

Severson Dells Nature Center

**Nature Play for Little Kids**
Designed just for younger explorers (4-6 years old)
Fun! Mud! Water! Bugs! Outdoors!
Camp #1: Tuesday-Thursday, June 16-18
Camp #2: Tuesday-Thursday, July 14-16
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
“Nature play strengthens children’s self-confidence and arouses their senses, their awareness of the world and all that moves in it, seen and unseen.” Richard Louv
More information is coming out later, but you can call now to get your name on a list to register. 815-335-2915

Severson Dells Nature Center

**Camp Peek-Into-Creek**
2nd-5th Grade (2015-2016 school year)
Camp #1: Tuesday-Thursday, June 23-25
Camp #2: Tuesday-Thursday, July 21-23
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Dive into the ecology of stream life; whet your appetite and wet your feet. Take part in the A, B, Sees (appreciation, biology and silliness) of this watery world. The camp will end with the legendary creek slosh through the dells in the beautiful Hall Creek of Severson Dells.
More information is coming out later, but you can call now to get your name on a list to register. 815-335-2915
Severson Dells Nature Center

**Grandparents and Kids Camp**
(for grandparents and their grandchildren ages 5-12)
Camp #1: Wednesday, July 8
Camp #2: Thursday, July 9
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Have a fabulous time with your grandchildren enjoying the out-of-doors. We offer a variety of activities to complement differing levels of ability. No need to be an expert—just come and have fun.
More information is coming out later, but you can call now to get your name on a list to register. 815-335-2915

Severson Dells Nature Center

**Blazing Paddles Youth Canoe Camp**
All you river rats and river pirates unite!
Going into 6th-9th grades 2015
Monday- Friday, July 27- July 31
Times to be announced (six hours minimum)
This camp is designed for kids to become more aware of the rivers in our community from an aesthetic, scientific and enjoyable perspective. The camp focuses on teaching canoe safety and skills as well as using the river as a living lab. All canoeing equipment will be provided and campers will divide time on the following waters: Pierce Lake, Rock, Kishwaukee, Sugar, and Pecatonica Rivers. Call for more information: 815-335-2915.

Welty Environmental Center
Three, week-long summer day camp sessions are planned for the summer of 2015.

**EARTH Week**
Monday - Friday, June 22-26
We will get up close and personal with the soil, the plants that grow there, and the animals that live on, in and under the soil. Check out a local organic farm and be a farmer for the day. Get ready to get dirty!

**WIND Week**
Monday - Friday, July 20-24
Wind and weather are around us all the time and affect every part of our lives. Learn how to observe the weather, make some predictions, and be ready to enjoy everything Mother Nature has to throw at us. Check out how plants and animals deal with the weather as we explore the park.
**FIRE Week**  
Monday - Friday, August 10-14  
Without fire we wouldn’t have the sun, lightning, weather or life on Earth. We will harness fire to do some outdoor cooking, learn fire safety, and enjoy the life resulting from fire all around us in nature. We will even learn about fire in the sky that only comes out at night!

**Details for camps:**  
Ages 6-12 years old; ages 13 and up to volunteer as Junior Naturalists (no fee to volunteer)  
Each week costs $100 per camper, $75 for Welty Environmental Center members.  
Hours Mon-Fri 9am-3pm, with Friday Night Family Night at 6pm.  
Campers daily need a lunch and water bottle. Hats, insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended.  
Optional Family Camp-out each week on Fri. night to Sat. morning, with campfire activities, night hikes, and Saturday breakfast. Families must provide their own camping gear. Additional fee for family camp out.  
**Registration is limited to 15 campers each week, so register early!**  
Call 608-361-1377 or email info@weltycenter.org for more information and registration materials.
Angelic Organics Learning Center
1547 Rockton Road
Caledonia, IL 61011
Farm Phone: 1-815-389-8455
For our Chicago urban programs office: 1-773-991-0786
Fax: 1-425-969-0317
www.LearnGrowConnect.org
Angelic Organics Learning Center helps urban and rural people build local food systems. The Learning Center offers opportunities to grow healthy food and a better quality of life, connect with farmers and the land, and learn agricultural and leadership skills. The Learning Center, a nonprofit organization, reaches more than 4,000 people each year through its programs at partner farms and urban growing sites in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. For more information or to get involved, please visit www.LearnGrowConnect.org.

Atwood Environmental Center
Rockford Park District
2685 New Milford School Rd.
Rockford, IL 61109-4435
1-815-874-7576
FAX: 1-815-874-2467
www.rockfordparkdistrict.org
School and Community Group Outings: Spend a full or half-day at the Atwood Environmental Center. Explore the various nature neighborhoods such as oak forest, tall grass prairie and the Kishwaukee River bottomlands. Sample from a variety of sessions that include teams courses, nature and cultural history hikes, outdoor living skills with archery and fishing. (In season). Some activities can be brought to community groups and school sites. In general, sessions are approximately 3 hours in length, and require a minimum of sixteen participants. We also offer residential experiences of 1 ½ or 2 ½ days. Call 1-815-874-7576 to schedule a date for your school or group outing.
Birds of Prey: The Atwood Environmental Center cares for six nonreleasable raptors, including owls, hawks, a kestrel, and an eagle. Presentations: Focusing on native species, Atwood’s Birds of Prey presentations deliver a powerful educational and environmental message for people of all ages. Call for fees and scheduling 1-815-874-7576.
Facility Rentals: The Atwood Center allows for an incredible experience in the outdoors, while providing all the comforts of home. Please call 1-815-874-7576 for rates and availability.

**Boone County Conservation District**  
603 N. Appleton Road  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
Open M - F: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
1-815-547-7935  
[www.bccdil.org](http://www.bccdil.org)  
The BCCD manages over 3,500 acres of open space comprised of wetlands, prairies, and woodlands within 25 conservation areas. Educational and recreational opportunities are offered year round. The district hosts field trips, workshops, and summer camps. The BCCD mission is to preserve and manage natural areas and open spaces for ecological, educational, and recreational benefits of present and future generations. Volunteers Wanted. All year long. Do you like being outdoors and meeting new people? Call the Volunteer coordinator at 1-815-547-7935

**Burpee Museum of Natural History**  
737 North Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61103  
1-815-965-3433 - Phone  
1-815-965-2703 - Fax  
[www.burpee.org](http://www.burpee.org)  
Burpee Museum of Natural History, located at 737 North Main Street, Rockford, Illinois, is home of Jane, Rockford’s Celebrity Dinosaur. Unearthed in the Badlands of Montana the summer of 2002 by Burpee paleontologists, Jane is considered one of the most spectacular finds in the history of paleontology. Established in 1941, the Burpee Museum, one of the preeminent natural history museums, is located on the banks of the Rock River in Rockford, Illinois. Museum hours are 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., seven days a week. Closed Major Holidays. Free parking is available at Burpee Museum at 737 North Main Street. Additional parking information is available on the website. Visit [www.burpee.org](http://www.burpee.org) or call 1 815 965 3433 for current admission fees and information about membership. General admission is free for Burpee Museum members and children under 4 years of age. Visit [www.burpee.org](http://www.burpee.org)
Field trips to Natural History Museum, Observatory, and Heritage Farm:
Scouts, schools, and senior groups are welcome to the Forest Preserve for an educational and fun tour of our great museums. Staff welcomes and gives tours for the low cost of $1.50/person with a minimum of $30/group. We offer many sessions to choose from including prairie ecology, astronomy, and museum tour. Call 1-815-234-8535, ext. 217 to schedule your next outing with us. Natural History Museum, Heritage Farm Museum, Weiskopf Observatory, Preschool Classes, Recycling Station, Canoe Rentals, Ski/Sled/Snowshoe rentals,

**Outreach:** We offer educational programs to any group including retirement homes and nursing facilities for a small fee. Call today to book your next on site program.

**DeKalb County Forest Preserve District**
110 East Sycamore Street
Sycamore, IL 60178
1-815-895-7191
www.dekalbcounty.org

**Environmental Education Association of Illinois**
www.eeai.net

**Four Rivers Environmental Coalition**
Comprised of over 30 organizations in an area made up of the watersheds of the Rock, Sugar, Pecatonica and Kishwaukee Rivers in north central Illinois whose vision and mission is to:
- Demonstrate the needs and benefits of Open Space advocacy by supporting regional-wide planning for the preservation of open spaces, park and recreational opportunities.
- Provide a source for scientifically sound information to assist decision makers in devising policy and actions concerning the protection, acquisition, restoration and management of natural areas and open spaces.
- Promote, coordinate, and facilitate the restoration, management, and protection of existing and future natural areas.
- Increase the public’s awareness and understanding of our region’s biodiversity by developing, coordinating, and promoting environmental education programs and events for life long learning.
- Develop relationships and partnerships with private sectors,
corporations, and businesses to provide financial resources for the
continuation of economic and quality of life benefits for all.
Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each odd numbered month at
the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District office, 5500 Northrock
Drive, Rockford, IL 61103. For more information visit:
www.fourriver.org or contact: 1-815-877-6100, or
jjohannsen@wcfpd.org.

Friends of the Kishwaukee River
815-601-5567
friendsofthekish@gmail.com
www.kishwaukeeriver.org
Friends of the Kishwaukee River is a grassroots, community initiative in
Winnebago County, Illinois, created to establish public awareness of the
beauty and ecology of the Kishwaukee River, one of the highest quality
streams in Illinois, and the many threats to its health. The mission of
Friends of the Kishwaukee River is to promote good stewardship of the
river and the surrounding public lands, encourage safe and responsible
recreation, and protect its watershed from degradation.

Hoo Haven
10823 Cleveland Road
Durand, IL 61024
815-629-2212
karen@hoohaven.org
www.hoohaven.org
Hoo Haven Wildlife and Education Center is a not for profit 501 (c) 3
organization which has been operating outside your back door for over
25 years. Our goal is to rehab orphaned and injured North American
Wildlife and release them back into the wild, educate others as to the part
they can play in helping Mother Earth and how to help with conservation
efforts to make it a better place to live. We do over 120 programs per
year in northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa and are known for
“bringing the field trip to you.” Programs offered include Birds of Prey,
Feathers and Feet, Snakes and Rats and our own Wildlife Trunks. We
show individuals that there is a wealth of wildlife right at their own back
door. Programs must be booked 8 weeks in advance. Hoo Haven has
many opportunities for community service projects, whether it is for, 4-
H, Work Days for companies, probation hours, etc. Call 815-629-2212 to
find out about the various opportunities for groups and individuals. Hoo
Haven is now “going green’ by utilizing renewable energy technology.
Our own Solar Voltaic system is up and running and producing
electricity. We also now have a vertical axis wind generator on site. Tours
are available by appointment. There is much to see and tours take at least
one hour and include the PV Solar System and the Wind Generator. Tour
cost is $10 per person for anyone over 12 years of age. Children 12 and
under are free. For more information on volunteering, donating, time,
materials or financial support, please call.
Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful
5417 North Second Street
Loves Park, IL 61111
1-815-637-1343
FAX: 1-815-637-0525
info@knib.org
www.facebook.com/KeepNorthernIllinoisBeautiful
Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful, the regional Keep America Beautiful affiliate, is a volunteer-driven, 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 1988. Its mission is to improve our environment through education, public awareness and community involvement. For more information on any of our recycling drives and awards programs, please visit our website at www.knib.org. Volunteers may also register online for the Metals & Electronics Drives and the Clothing Drives. Sign up to receive our email newsletter to stay informed about all our events.

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden
2715 S. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61102
815-965-8146
FAX: 815-965-5914
info@klehm.org
http://klehm.org
www.facebook.com/KlehmArboretum
Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden is a 155-acre living museum filled with spectacular gardens and rare trees. There’s beauty in every season from fragrant magnolia trees in spring and a butterfly garden in summer to the brilliant colors of fall and snow-capped evergreens in winter. A 1.8 mile, handicapped-accessible paved path winds through the arboretum plus many secondary, chipped trails. Kids will have fun navigating the maze in the Children’s Garden. Filled with botanic beauty, Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden is waiting for you to explore. Klehm offers a unique, elegant location with a variety of natural settings for wedding ceremonies, receptions or business meetings. We partner with the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District. For visitor information or to arrange for a tour call 815-965-8146 or visit www.klehm.org.
Macktown Living History Education Center
Located at Macktown Forest Preserve, 2221 Freeport Rd., Rockton, IL 61072
MLHEC, P.O. Box 566, Rockton, IL 61072
1-815-624-4200
www.macktownlivinghistory.com
macktown1@frontier.com
macktownfacebook
Macktown Living History Education Center is a non-profit organization located within Macktown Forest Preserve. Their mission is to restore the site of the original Pecatonic (now Macktown) settlement and provide education on early 1800’s life through programs and events throughout the year. Macktown is listed on the National Historic Register and offers tours of two of the original buildings on Sundays in the summer months or by chance or appointment. A historic garden is tended by volunteers, anyone interested may join us on March 5 for the first workday or call 1-815-624-4200 to learn the 2013 garden schedule. Events and workshops year-round.

Midway Village Museum
6799 Guilford Road
Rockford, IL 61107
1-815-397-9112
www.midwayvillage.com
Midway Village Museum & Heritage Garden Program
Midway Village Museum is a 137-acre museum comfortably nestled among a picturesque background of native prairie, woodlands and heirloom gardens that encourage visitors to step-back-in-time to the 1900s. The open air museum is a Victorian Village (1890 to 1910) of 26 historical buildings filled with artifacts of the era as well as several beautiful 19th century gardens. Interpreters in authentic period dress are available seasonally for guided tours. The main museum building holds a number of permanent exhibits reflecting Rockford’s history and culture. As a part of the village, the Heritage Garden Program has recreated historic gardens in the village using 19th century garden designs, structures, ornamentation and heirloom plants. In addition to the cultivated garden areas, Midway Village Museum is actively engaged in prairie restoration. When the first settlers arrived in Northern Illinois, 22 million acres of prairie dominated the landscape and gave Illinois its nickname, the Prairie State. An ongoing program aimed at restoring this unique biological community began in 2005. The creation of a native wetland earned the Superior Achievement Award by the Illinois Association of Museums in 2006.
The mission of the Natural Land Institute is to create an enduring legacy of natural land in northern Illinois for people, plants and animals. We do this by preserving forests, prairies and wetlands for native plants and animals, restoring habitat for wildlife, protecting rivers and streams for fish and other aquatic species, educating people about their part in nature, and providing opportunities to enjoy natural areas to enrich the lives of residents of northern Illinois. NLI offers volunteer opportunities, educational programs and nature walks at our preserves. Workdays and programs are often scheduled at the Nygren Wetland Preserve, a 721-acre restoration project located a mile west of Rockton, Illinois.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens is situated along the banks of our beautiful Rock River in Sinnissippi Gardens. The facility opened at the end of October 2011 and is now the third largest conservatory in Illinois.

The site will be recognized as LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the recognized standard for measuring building sustainability.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Highlights:
• Water features, seating areas, and sculptures - all in an 11,00 square foot tropical plant exhibition area
• Changing seasonal floral displays and special events
• Educational programs where children can learn the importance of plants
• Special workshops and lecture series for adults
• The perfect place to host your event - small weddings, receptions,
business meetings
• Garden Gate Gifts – shop for unique presents and seasonal gifts

Admission
Adults ..................................$6.00 residents, $8 non-residents
Students ...............................$4 residents, $6 non-residents
Seniors .................................$4.00 residents & non-residents
Children ages 4 and under free when accompanied by an adult.

Call for information about rental space to accommodate up to 120 people for meetings, weddings or special events: 815-987-8858 for information. “Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/nicholasconservatory) for discounts and special offers!”

North Central Illinois Ornithological Society (NCIOS)
Meetings are held at Severson Dells Nature Center, 8786 Montague Road, Rockford, IL
www.ncios.org

NCIOS meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month, except in June and September when the club meets at 6:00 p.m. in area forest preserves and parks. NCIOS does not meet in July, August, and December. Meetings feature educational programs about birds, birding equipment, places and times to watch birds, recent area bird sightings, bird identification tips, and members’ birding trips, etc. The Club offers bird watching field trips to local sites of interest, as well as the annual Christmas, Spring, and Sandhill Crane bird counts. Visitors are always welcomed and carpooling is available for field trips. For more information, please visit the club’s web site, www.ncios.org, or call Lynda Johnson, President, at 815-629-2781.
Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education
6320 Poplar Street
Loves Park, IL 61111
1-815-633-9193
www.northernillinoisraptor.org
Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured, sick and orphaned birds of prey, with the goal of returning strong, healthy birds back to the wild. Our “Education Ambassadors” are non-releasable hawks, owls, falcons, etc. We have 14 raptors representing 10 different species. We offer interactive, up-close-and personal “live” bird of prey programs engaging a wide variety of audiences. These venues include, schools, businesses, various groups & organizations, festivals, scouts, nursing homes/retirement homes and any others who desire to gain knowledge and understanding of raptors, their natural history, their habitat, and the roles they play in nature and in our lives. Display materials include biological materials such as wings, feathers, tails, and feet, etc., which participants are invited to view and touch. Many other informative materials are also displayed. Visit our website at northernillinoisraptor.org or our blog for more information about us and future events. Call us at 1-815-633-9193 or e-mail Candy Ridlbauer at raptorlady@comcast.net.

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
P.O. Box 771
Freeport, IL 61032
The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, provides many opportunities for environmental action at the local level. The Society’s strongest commitments are in the areas of public environmental education, natural areas management and sustainable agriculture. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, September-May in Freeport. Field trips are offered on a regular basis, and a bimonthly newsletter is sent to members. Many stewardship days are scheduled each summer on prairie remnants managed by the Society, including Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve near Forreston. In addition, the Society participates in the annual Christmas Bird Count, promotes member action on environmental legislation, provides environmental education materials to local school classrooms and offers scholarships for ecology workshops and ornithology courses. Visit www.nwilaudubon.org to see our newsletter and find out about programs.
David C. Olson Photography
7801 East State Street, Inside the Clock Tower
Rockford IL 61108
815-873-1777
www.davidolsonphoto.com
Nationally published photographers David and Adrienne Olson from Olson Photography offer fine portraiture, wedding, schools and of course wildlife photography. Olson photography is a full service studio that offers the latest in digital services. Waterfalls and reflection ponds are part of their outdoor sets. Inside, the studio is home to the Wild Images gallery. A collection of images from the natural world framed and matted for sale for your home and business. Also David’s images are printed on note cards, calendars and books with his breathtaking nature imagery. David Olson also leads photo workshops in the area and globally to find beauty and teach others how to create better images. A must see is their Audio and Visual large screen presentations of the natural world. These inspiring shows are great for organizations, companies, nature centers and school groups. Call to book a date for your group.

Rocktown Adventures
313 N. Madison Street
Rockford, IL 61103
815-636-9066
and
107 Spruce St
Aurora, IL
630-506-5706
www.rocktownadventures.com
Rocktown Adventures is an independently owned specialty outdoor retailer with locations in Aurora, IL and Rockford, IL. Our mission is to provide the Chicagoland, Northern Illinois, and Southern Wisconsin community an opportunity to embrace an outdoor lifestyle through participation in outdoor recreation using their community’s natural assets. We want our appreciation of the outdoors to inspire you to take on new challenges, leading to a healthier lifestyle, and ultimately helping you define your idea of outdoor recreation. As a leader in the outdoor industry and in the larger community, we use outdoor retail as a platform to encourage outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship and to improve access to both water and land trails for increased recreational opportunities. Our outdoor adventure experts are standing by to help you get ready for your next adventure.
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114
815) 921-7821
www.rockvalleycollege.edu
As a community’s college, we make a difference through teaching, learning and leading.
Rock Valley College is a comprehensive two-year community college in Rockford, Illinois offering more than 100 courses for transfer, career programs and certificates. Founded in 1964, the college is part of the 48-institution Illinois Community College System.
Service Area- All of Winnebago County, most of Boone County and portions of Ogle, Stephenson, McHenry and DeKalb counties. The total population served is more than 340,000.
Facilities
• 217-acre wooded campus
• Facilities
Main Campus, North Mulford Road, Rockford
Stenstrom Center for Career Education, Samuelson Road, Rockford
Bell School Road Center, Bell School Road, Rockford
Falcon Road Center, Falcon Road, Rockford
North Main Street Center, North Main Street, Rockford
Learning and Opportunity Center, 308 West State Street (Stewart Square), Rockford
Bengt Sjostrom Theatre, home of Starlight Theatre
Comprehensive athletic complex and walking path. Modern classroom and labs.

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory
Colored Sands Forest Preserve,
Haas Road, Shirland, IL
Mail: P.O. Box 2
Seward, IL. 61077
1-815-629-2671
www.sandbluff.org
Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is one of the largest small-bird banding operations in the country that is open to the public. Sand Bluff is, and always has been, run entirely by volunteers who band birds, serve as guides for visitors, and present educational programs. Although Sand Bluff is a research facility, education is also a high priority. Special events allowing visitors to interact with owls and hawks are available by reservation. Please see the calendar for available dates. Individual and group visits to Sand Bluff are welcome. For more information or to schedule a group tour call 1-815-621-0607. A map is available on the Winnebago County Forest Preserve website at: http://www.wcfpd.org/preserves/NWMap.cfm
Severson Dells Nature Center
Located at Severson Dells Forest Preserve
8786 Montague Road
Rockford, IL 61102
1-815-335-2915
FAX: 1-815-335-2471
www.seversondells.org
Nature Center Hours:
Monday through Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday: 1:00-4:30 p.m.
Severson Dells Nature Center’s mission is to link people to nature through education and research in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area. The Nature Center promotes awareness of the natural world, fostering respect, enjoyment and preservation now and in the future. Educational programs are offered weekly to people of all ages and interests. Nature Library with over 2,000 titles available for checkout to members of “Friends of Severson Dells.”

Blackhawk Sierra Club
201 Seventh Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104
www.illinois.sierraclub.org/blackhawk
Founded in 1879 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is the one of the oldest, largest, most influential environmental organization in the United States. Our mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Blackhawk Group of the Illinois Chapter is dedicated to environmental education, outdoor recreation, and political action in McHenry, Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, Carroll, Ogle, Lee, and Whiteside Counties.

Sinnissippi Audubon Society
P.O. Box 7544, Rockford, IL 61126
1-815-398-2974
Sinnissippi Audubon Society is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society in Winnebago and Boone Counties. Membership meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the months September through June. Field Trips are also scheduled during the year.

Sugar-Pecatonica Rivers Ecosystem Partnership
320 South Third Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104
1-815-964-6666
The mission of the Sugar-Pecatonica Rivers Ecosystem Partnership is to demonstrate leadership in preservation and management of the Sugar and Pecatonica rivers’ ecosystems and natural resources and to promote responsible and sustainable use of these resources.
The Welty Environmental Center offers environmental education for all ages in the Stateline region, from pre-K through adults. Groups including schools, scouts, homeschool, 4-H and more are welcome. Annual festivals celebrating the natural world, along with school and public programs, are offered year-round. The Welty Environmental Center is headquartered in Beckman Mill County Park (7 miles west of Beloit) which is rich in natural and cultural history. Regular center hours are 8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Friday. Please call ahead as staff may be offsite with programs.

Wild Ones® Natural Landscapers Rock River Valley Chapter
Website: www.WildOnesRRVC.org
email: info@WildOnesRRVC.org
call: 1-815-627-0344
Mail: 1643 N Alpine Rd Ste 104
PMB 233
Rockford, IL 61107
Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit organization with a local chapter that teaches about the many benefits of growing native wildflowers in people’s yards. The Rock River Valley chapter is the second largest in the organization with over 200 members. Most meetings are held the third Thursday, at OUR NEW LOCATION, Rock Valley College-Woodward Technology Center (WTC), 3301 N. Mulford Rd., Rockford, IL 61114. Meetings provide presentations on native plants and related topics for ideas, how-to, and inspiration for native landscaping. There are also plant sales, “show me-help me” tours, and member socials.
**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County**
5500 Northrock Dr.
Rockford, IL 61103
1-815-877-6100
www.winnebagoforest.org
The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County owns and manages over 10,300 acres of forest preserves and trails for citizens and visitors of Winnebago County. FPWC partners with local environmental education organizations to provide an array of life-long learning opportunities at forest preserve sites. Severson Dells, Macktown Living History, Klehm Arboretum, and Sand Bluff Bird Observatory offer unique opportunities for families, students, youth groups and individuals to gain intimate knowledge of the plants and animals of our native Illinois habitats. Four campgrounds, 27 shelterhouses, eight boat ramps, 100 miles of hiking trails, six designated nature preserves are just some of the benefits offered at the FPWC’s 42 sites. Enjoy picnics, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, camping, golf, concerts, field trips and special events. Call or visit our website for free maps and brochures to help you find and enjoy some of the most beautiful natural areas in the Midwest.

**Winnebago County Health Department**
401 Division Street
Rockford, IL 61104
www.wchd.org
The Winnebago County Health Department Vision is to help promote a safe and healthy community in Winnebago County. Our Mission Statement is “To generate community efforts and interest, to prevent disease, promote health and assure that vital elements are in place to improve the health of the residents of Winnebago County.” This includes education on and protection of groundwater, regulation of private septic and well systems to protect health and groundwater supplies, provide environmental lab testing services, assure food sanitation at public facilities and events, and to assure minimum standards for healthy houses, properties and subdivisions. Other programs currently provided to assure a healthy environment include but are not limited to West Nile Virus surveillance, radon surveillance in homes, child lead exposure monitoring and elimination, and the promotion of proper disposal and / or recycling practices for hazardous materials such a mercury thermometers.
The Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District is a locally operated unit of government functioning under Illinois law. Our mission is to promote the protection, restoration, and wise use of the soil, water, and related resources within the district. We provide technical and educational resources in the areas of soils and land use, water quality, soil erosion in both urban and agricultural land uses, conservation program needs, wildlife habitat, and native ecosystem restoration and management.
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